



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

4

INIO ASANO

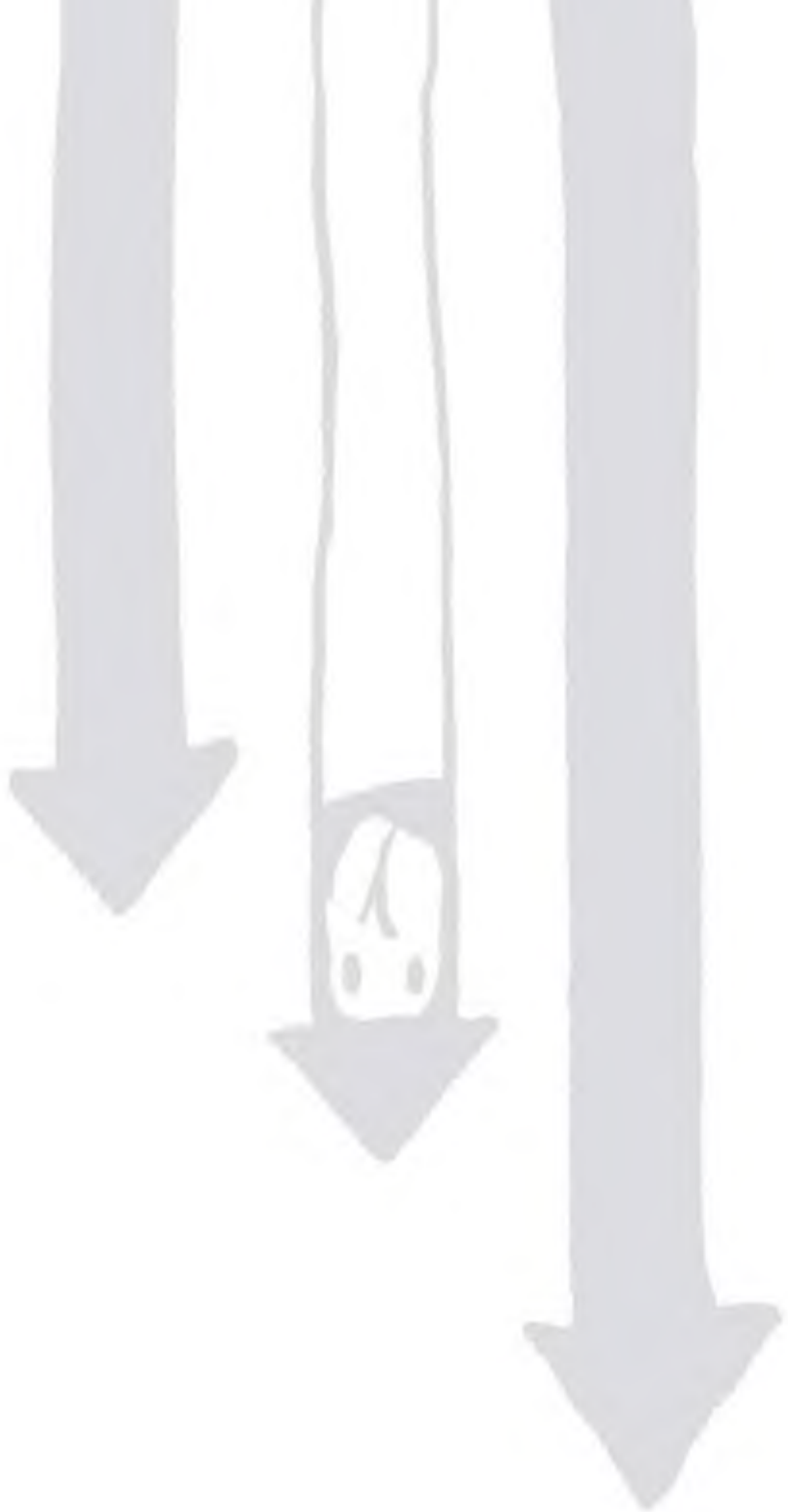
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT
CONTENT

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

4

Story and Art by INIO ASANO





GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Part Seven

CONTENTS

STORY THUS FAR...

Nothing to speak of.

CAST OF CHARACTERS



PUNPUN ONODERA
Punpun of the Onoderas.
A senior in high school.



YUICHI ONODERA
Punpun's uncle.

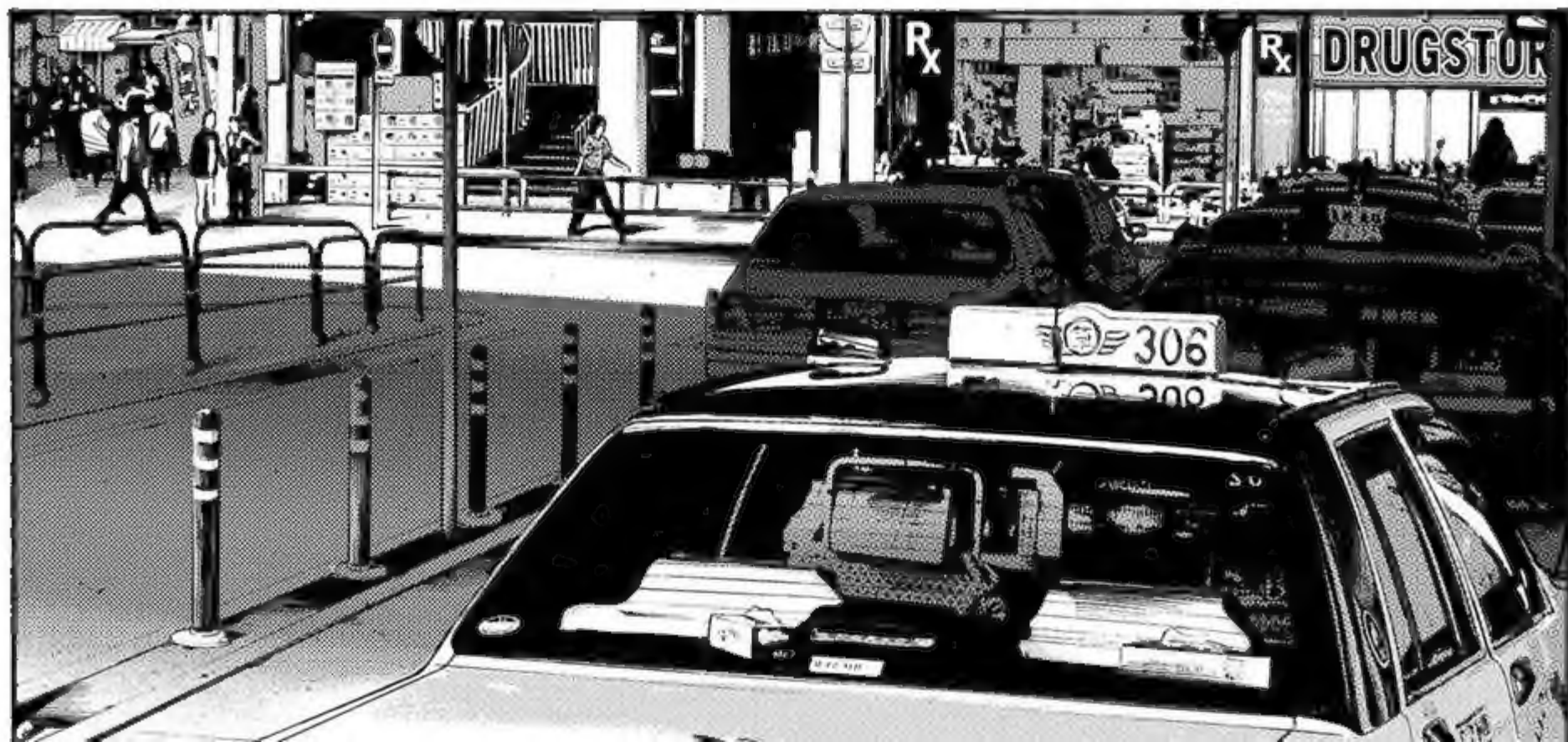
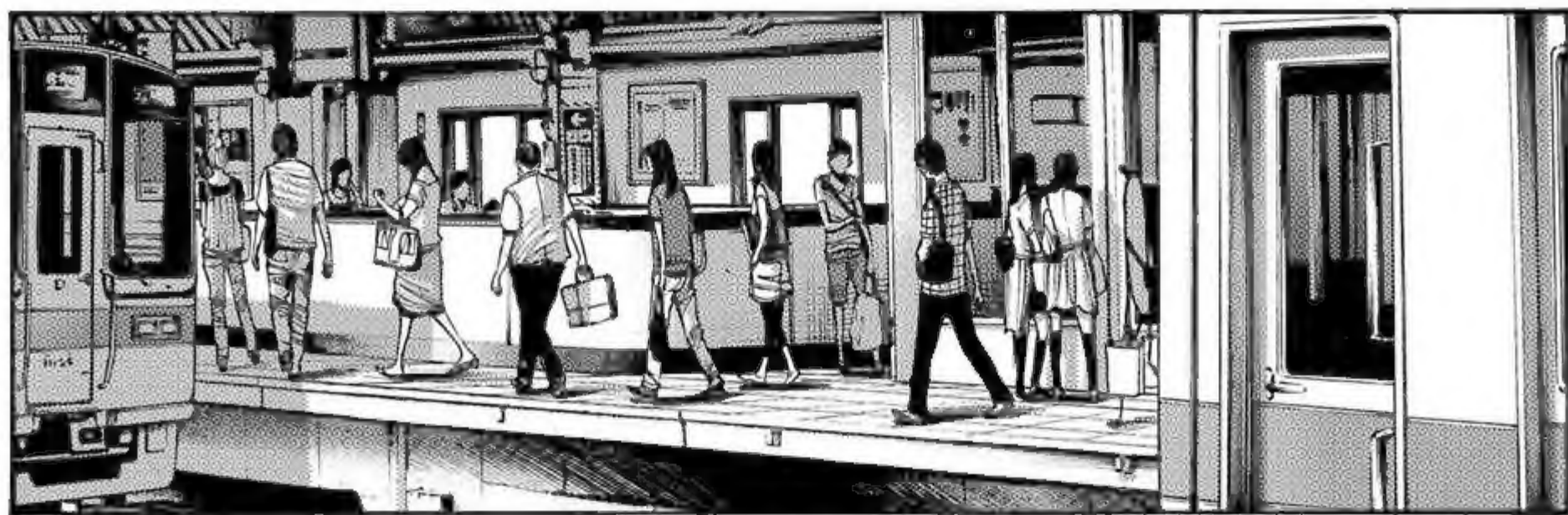


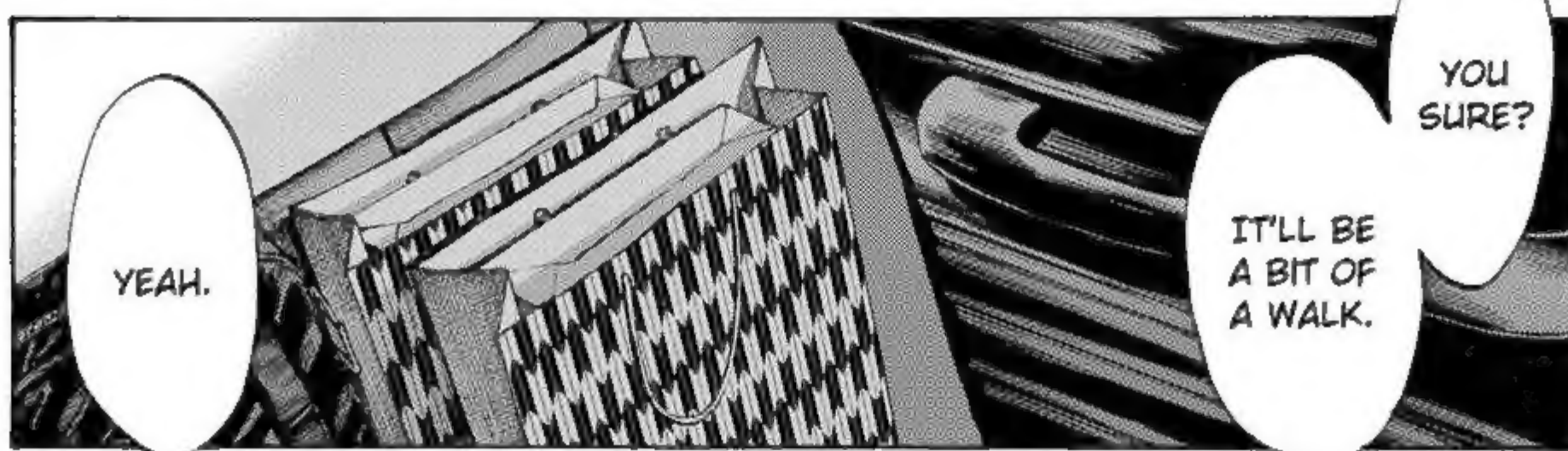
MIDORI ONODERA
Yuichi's wife.

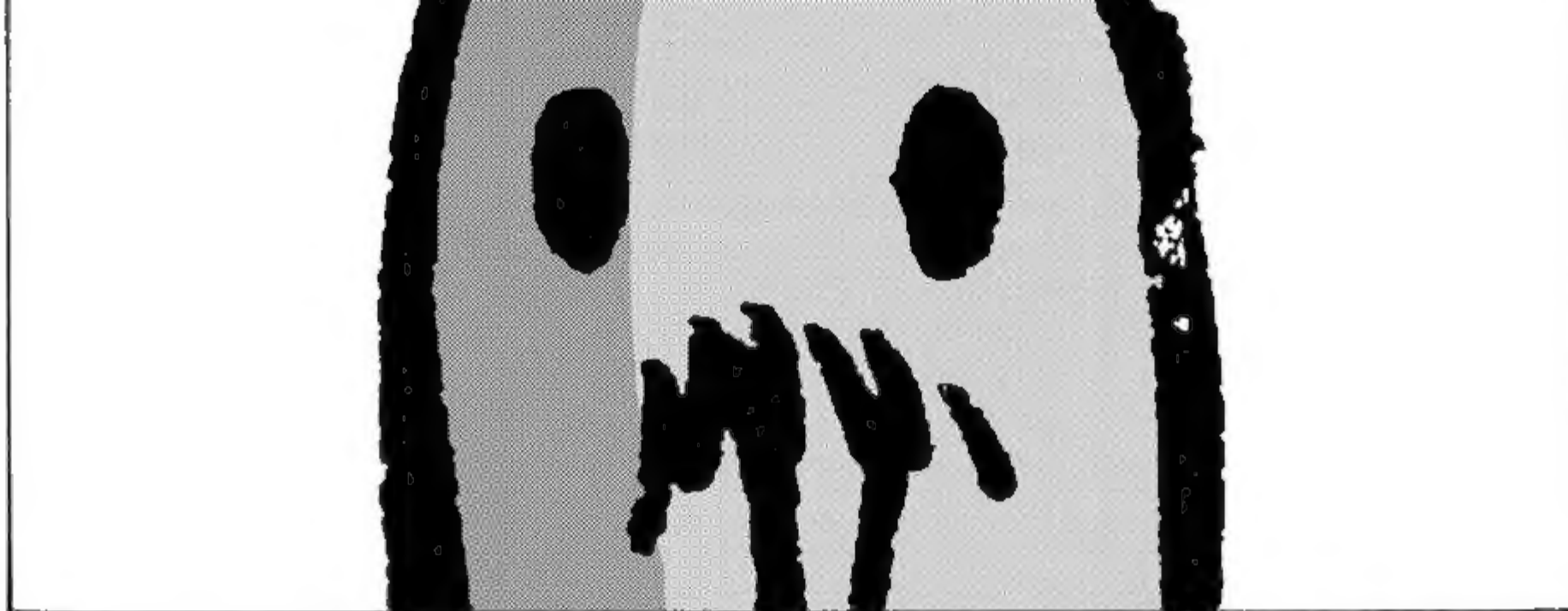


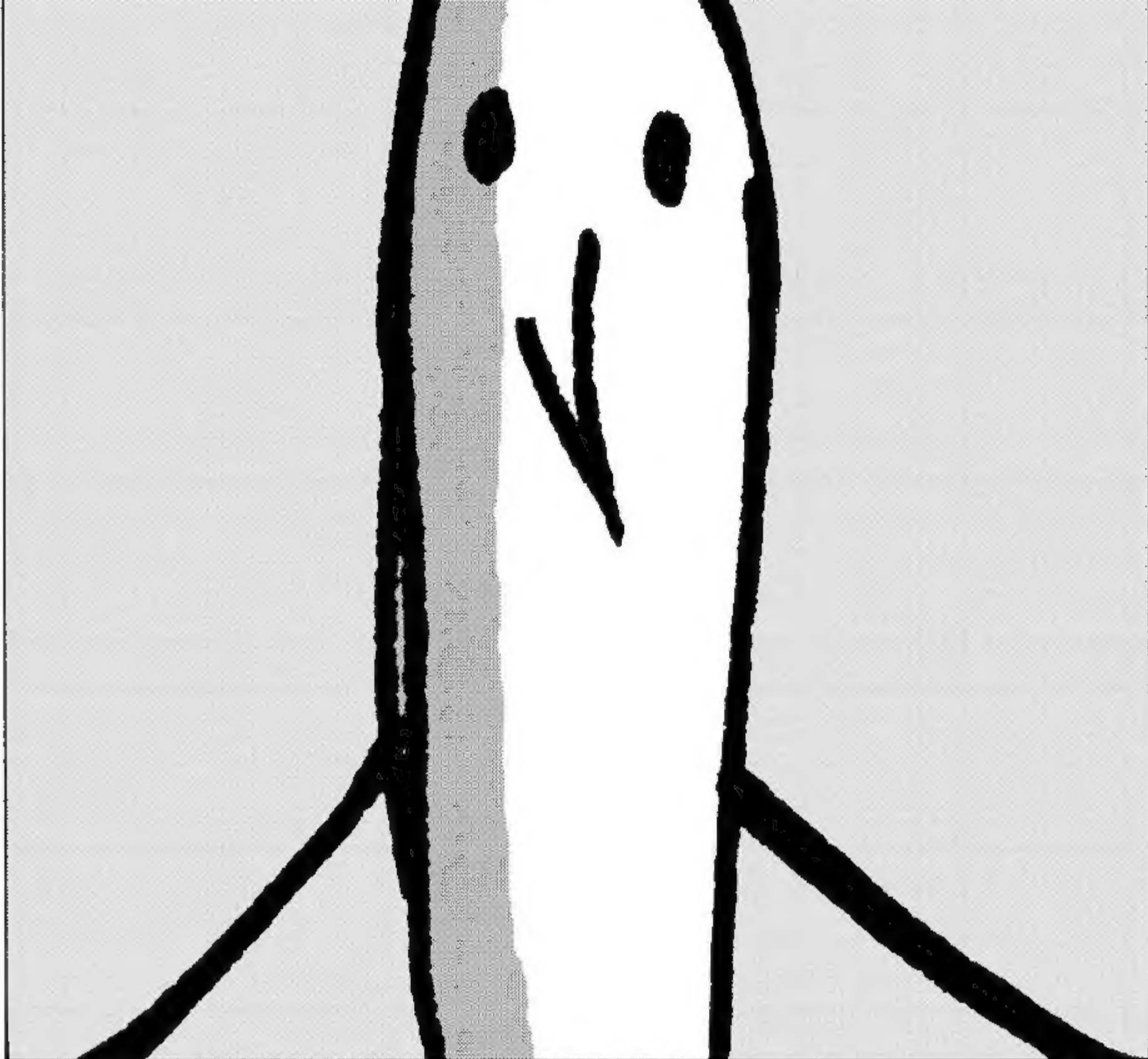
YUKINOSHIN MIMURA
A legendary giant reborn after 300 years.

★ ☆ Chapter 68	5	
Chapter 69	23	★ ★
Chapter 70	43	
Chapter 71	65	
Chapter 72	83	
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Chapter 77	185	
Chapter 78	203	









The chorus of elementary school kids excited by summer vacation mingled with the sound of the cicadas.

It was sunny all over the country that day, and in Punpun's town it was an extremely hot 99°F. It was the highest temperature of the summer.



In
short, he
was very
unhappy
with **right**
now.

That's
right.

Punpun disliked
summer. And
winter was cold,
so he didn't like
it either.



...but all he
was concerned
about was the
weather and
the seasons.

There were lots
of other things
he should have
been thinking
about...





HE
DOESN'T
SHOW IT,
BUT HE'S
SUFFERING.

PUNPUN
SEEMS
DOWN...



REALLY?



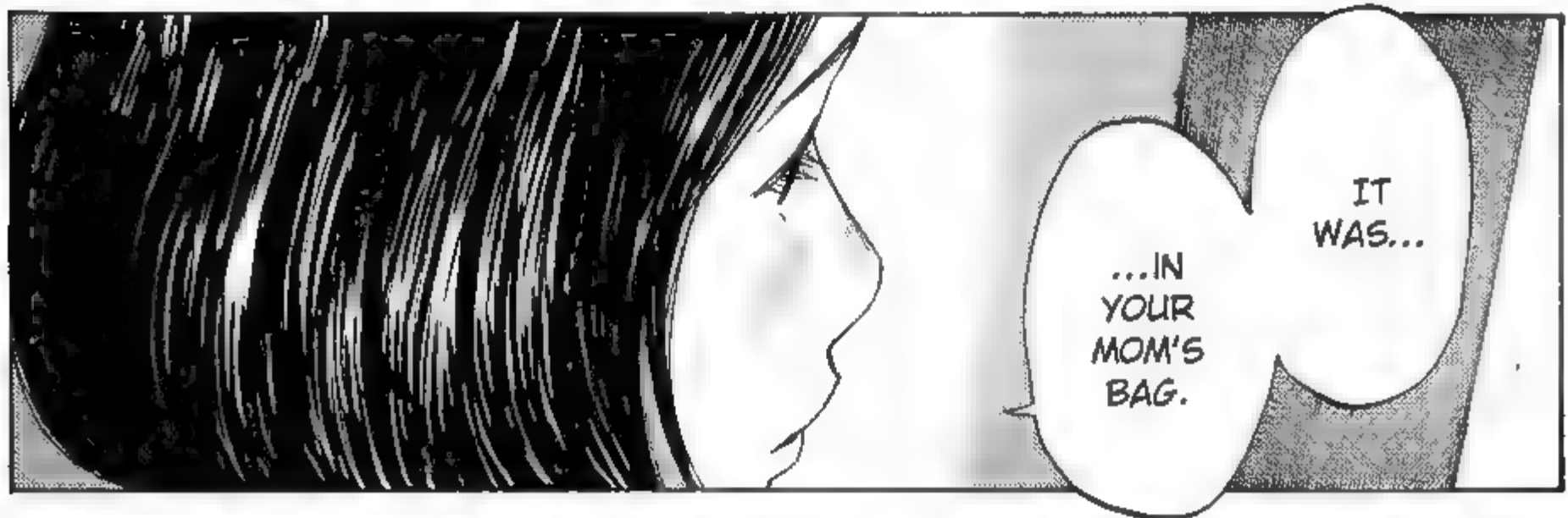
PUNPUN.

I
DON'T
THINK
SO.



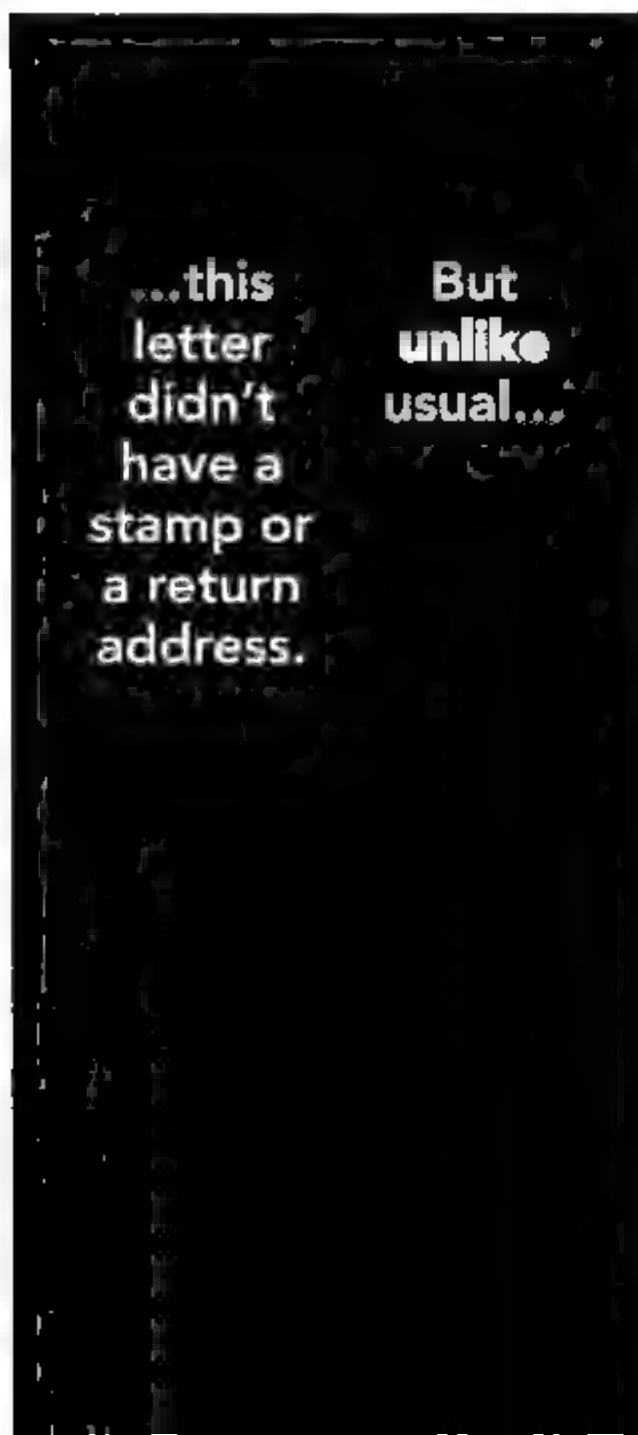
I
WASN'T
SURE IF
I SHOULD
GIVE IT
TO YOU.

HERE.



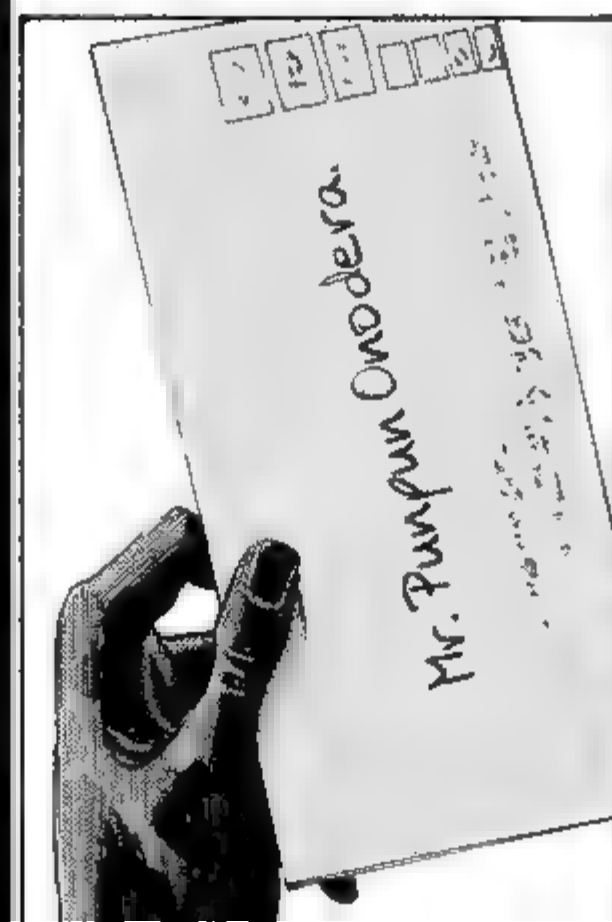
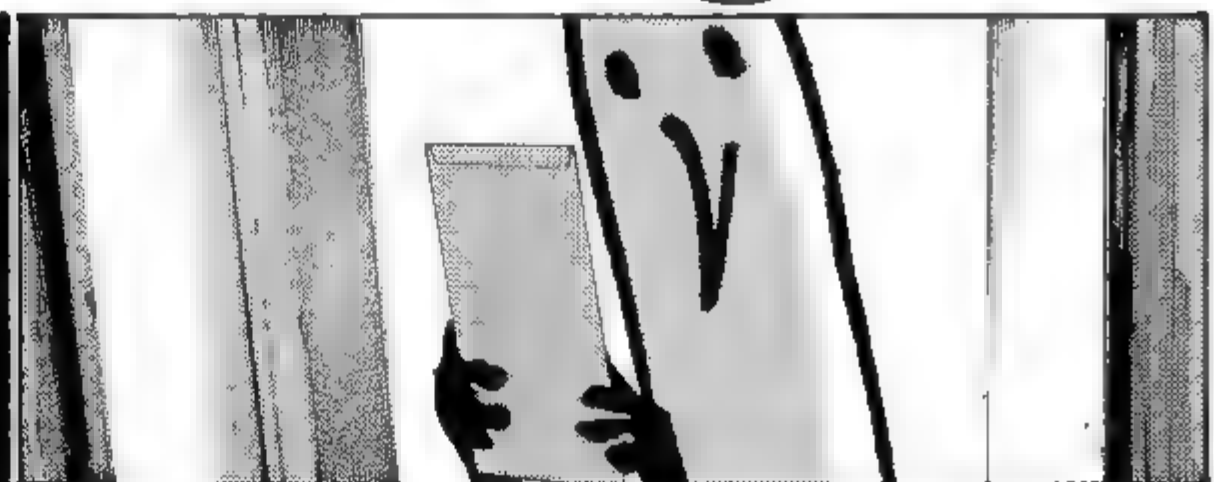
...IN
YOUR
MOM'S
BAG.

IT
WAS...



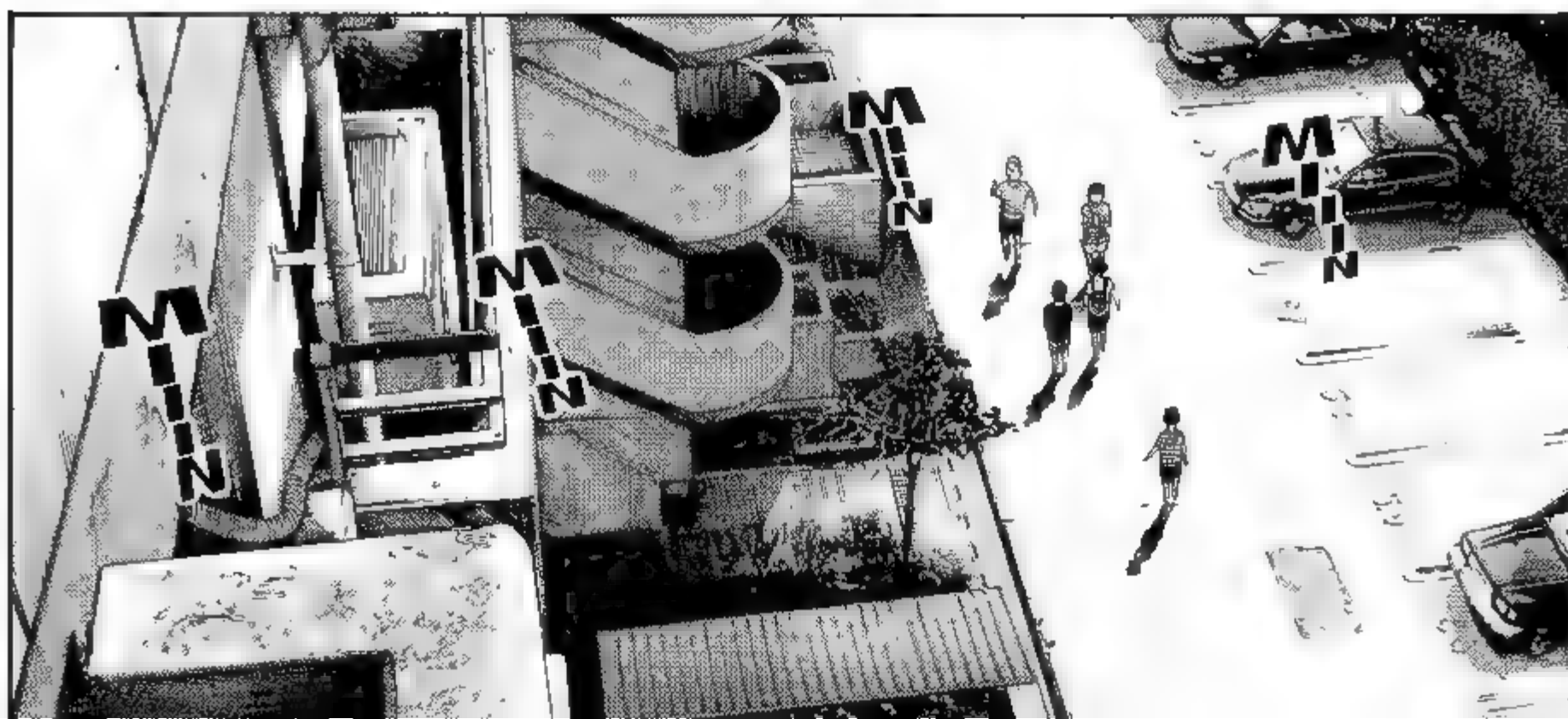
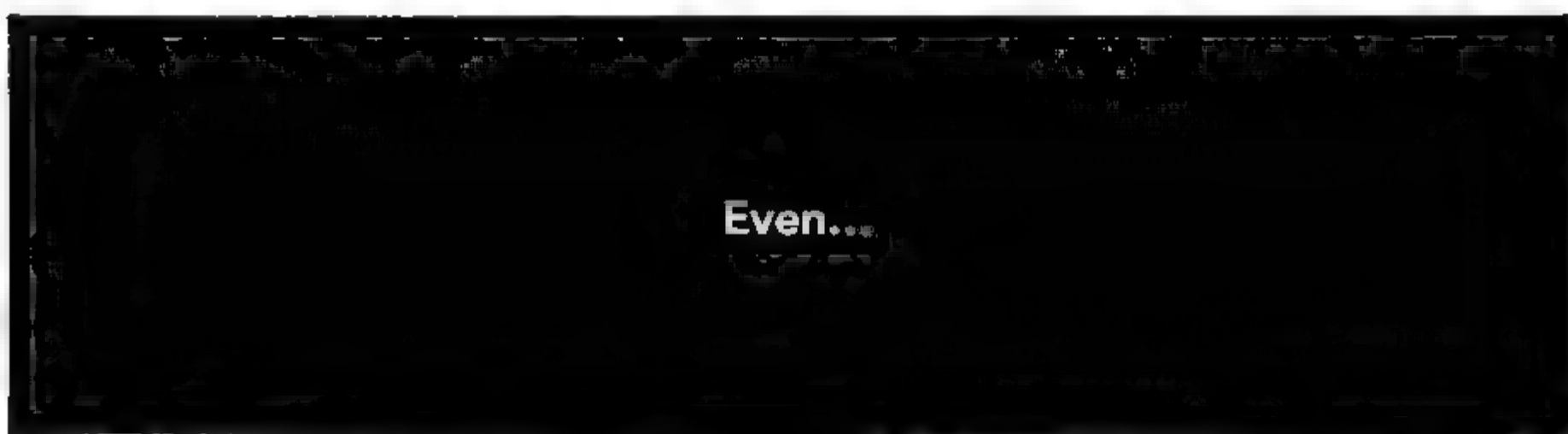
...this
letter
didn't
have a
stamp or
a return
address.

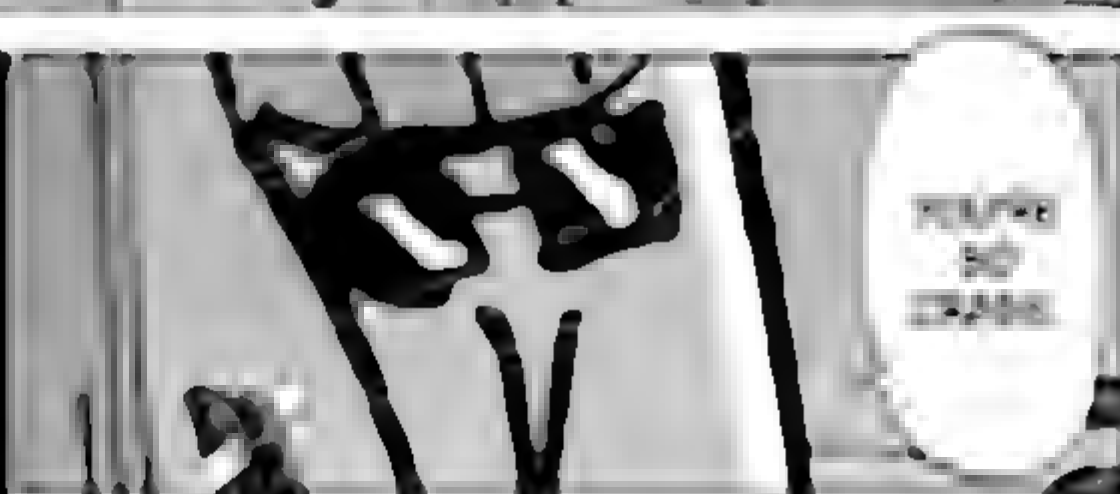
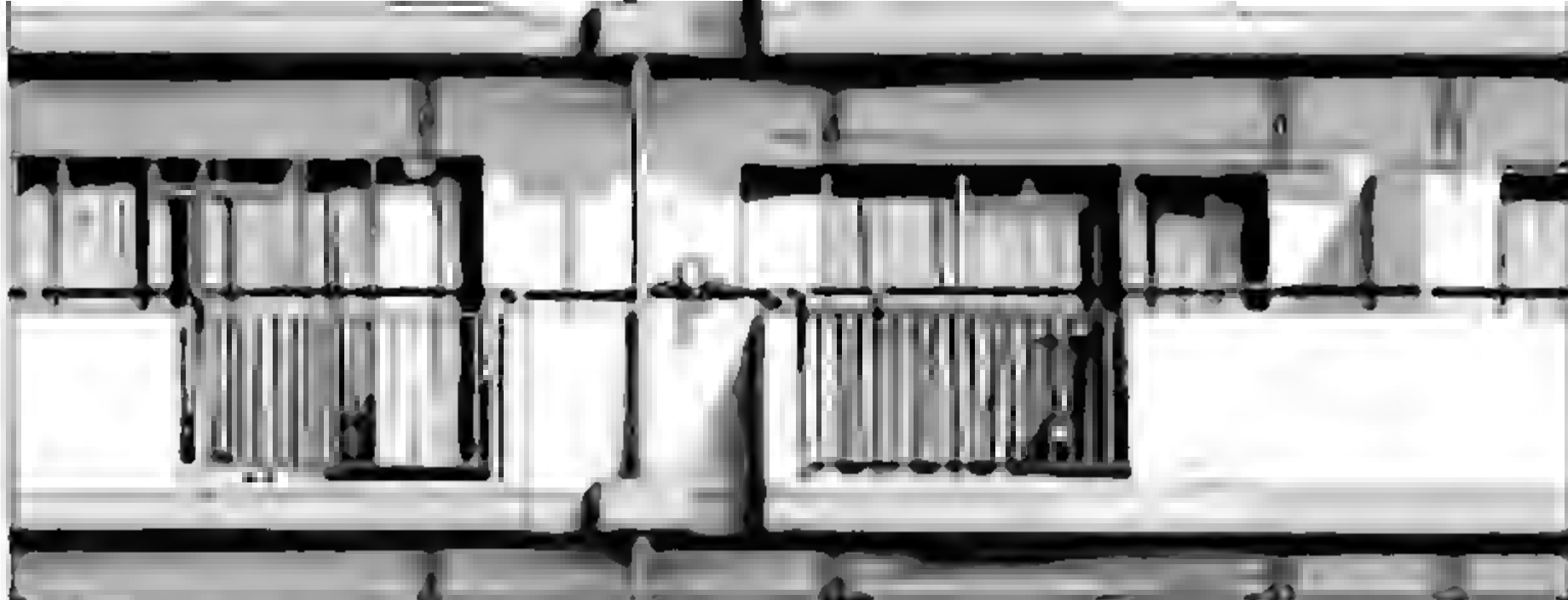
But
unlike
usual...



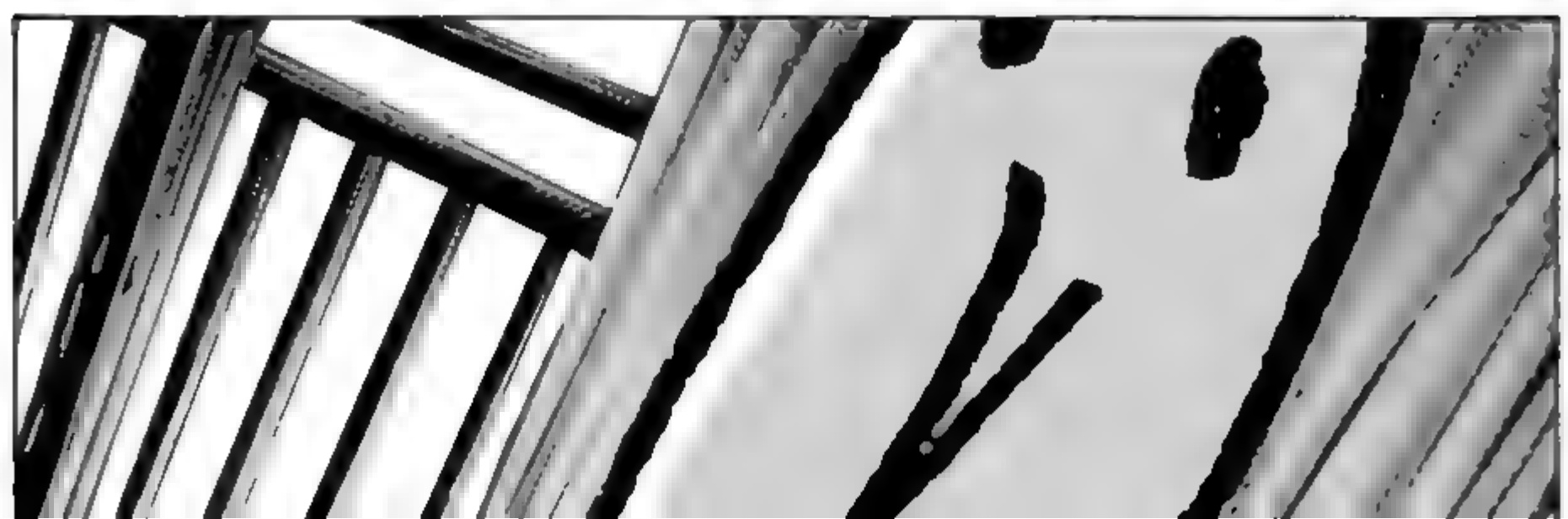
...that
Punpun
got from
his dad
every
month.

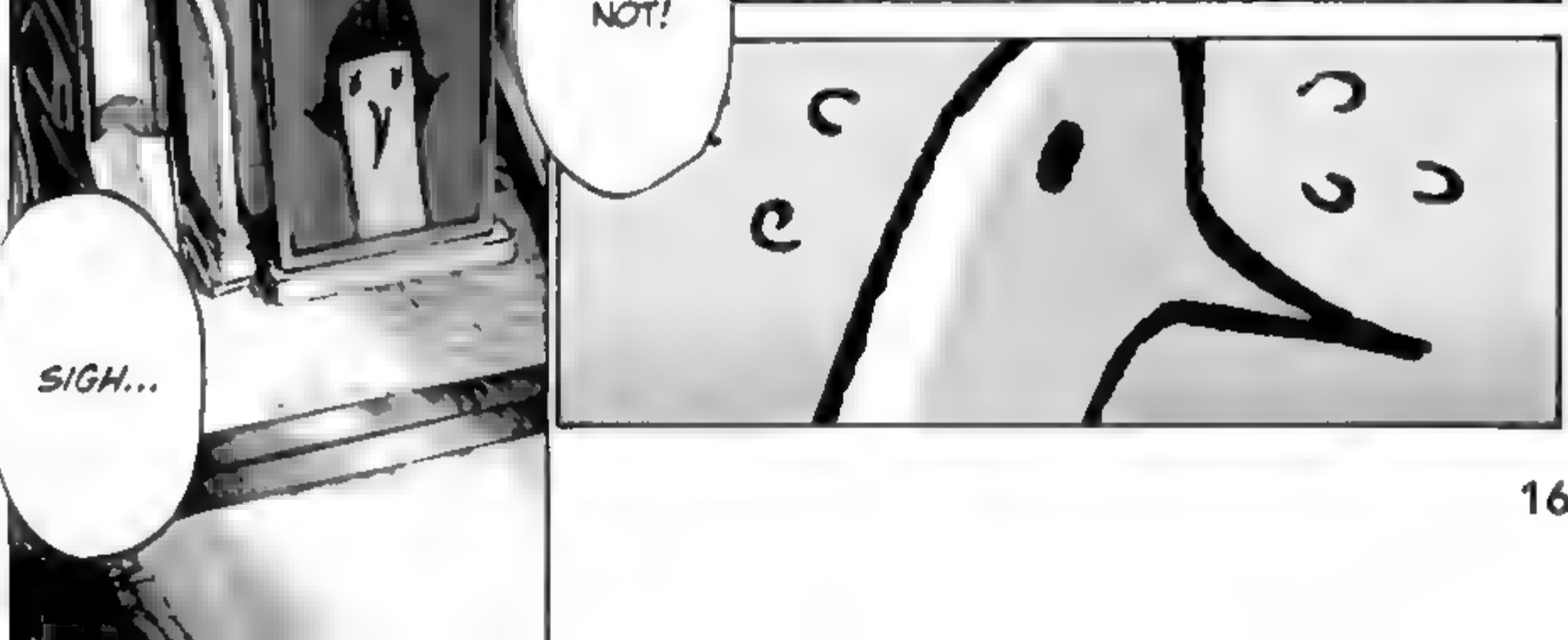
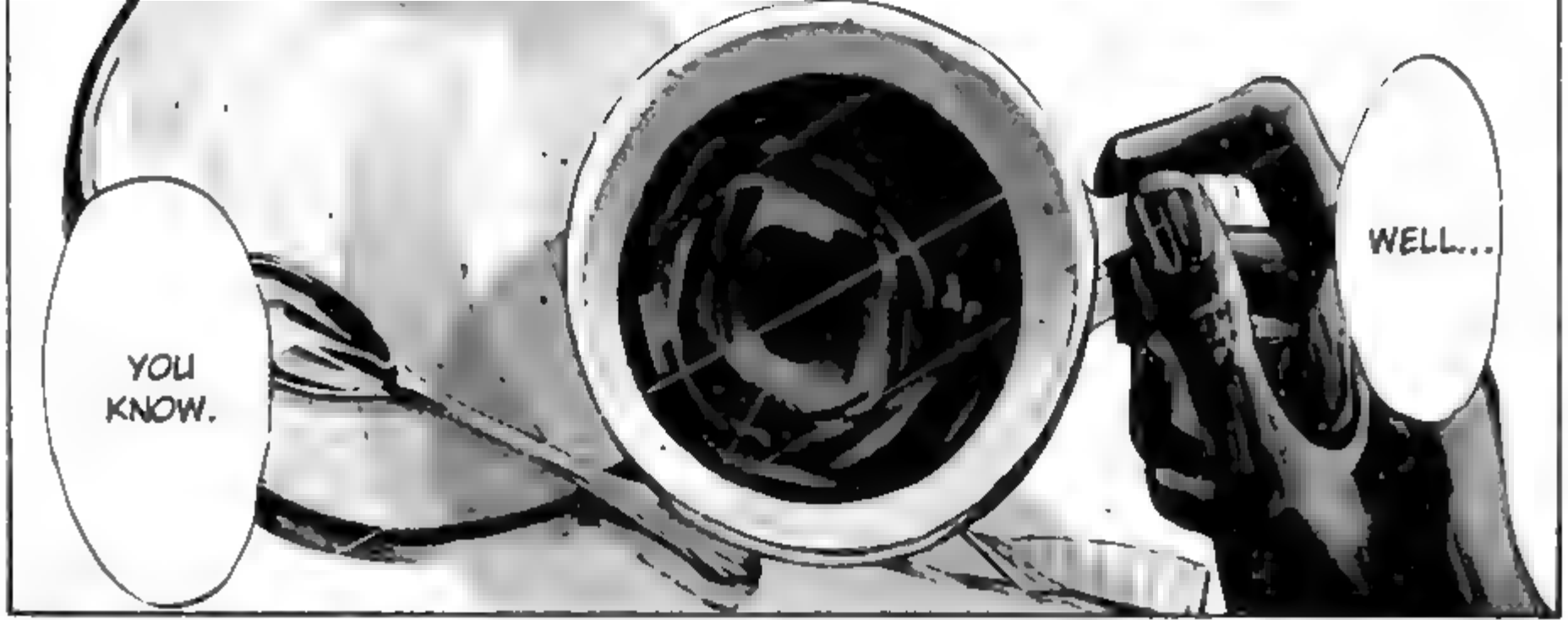
It was
the usual
pointless
letter...













LIKE I
NEED TO
ASK! YOU'RE
SUCH A
GO-GETTER,
PUNPUN.

WHY, WHEN I
WAS YOUR AGE,
I WAS GOING
AT IT SO MUCH
WITH AN OLDER
WOMAN THAT
MY DICK NEVER
HAD A CHANCE
TO DRY.



ARE YOU
GETTING
ANY?

...HOW'S
HIGH
SCHOOL?



OH YEAH.
I QUIT
THE NIGHT
WATCHMAN
JOB.

NOW I'M
WORKING
FOR A
FRIEND IN
SOCIAL
SERVICES.

UH,
UM...

MR.
PUNYAMA,
ARE YOU
STILL
WORKING
IN FUKU-
SHIMA?



YOU
SHOULD COME
VISIT, AKANE.
FUKUSHIMA IS
A REALLY NICE
PLACE.

THE STARS
ARE SO
BEAUTIFUL
OUT THERE.

YOU
KNOW, I'M
JUST AN
OLD MAN
FROM THE
COUNTRY
NOW...

Punpun
didn't
like this
at all.



UM...

...about
adults and
their own
twisted
problems.

Punpun
wanted
to be
open-
minded...

...wasn't
that big
of a deal.

His father
neglecting
him for
years...



EXCUSE
ME...

COULD
WE GET
SOME
MORE
COFFEE
HERE,
WAITER?

...that
Punpun
kept
observing
his dad in
the hopes
of figuring
out why.

But the
poisonous
sense of
wrongness
was so
painful...

He was
the same
funny, kind
dad he'd
always
been.

Nothing
had
changed
much.

His dad's
appearance,
his voice, his
demeanor...



Punpun
figured
out what
had
changed
the most.

"I
see..."

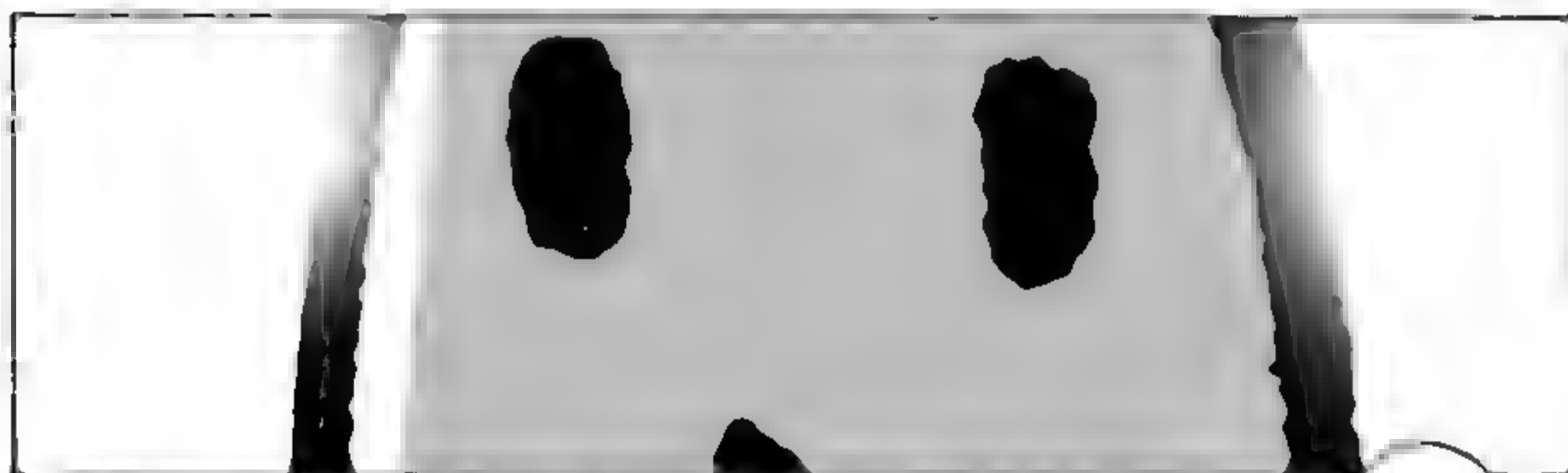




It was
himself.











He
wanted
a new
beginning...

...wasn't
sure what
the person
sitting in
front of him
was saying.

Punpun...

But what
did he
even
mean by
that?



Punpun
thought

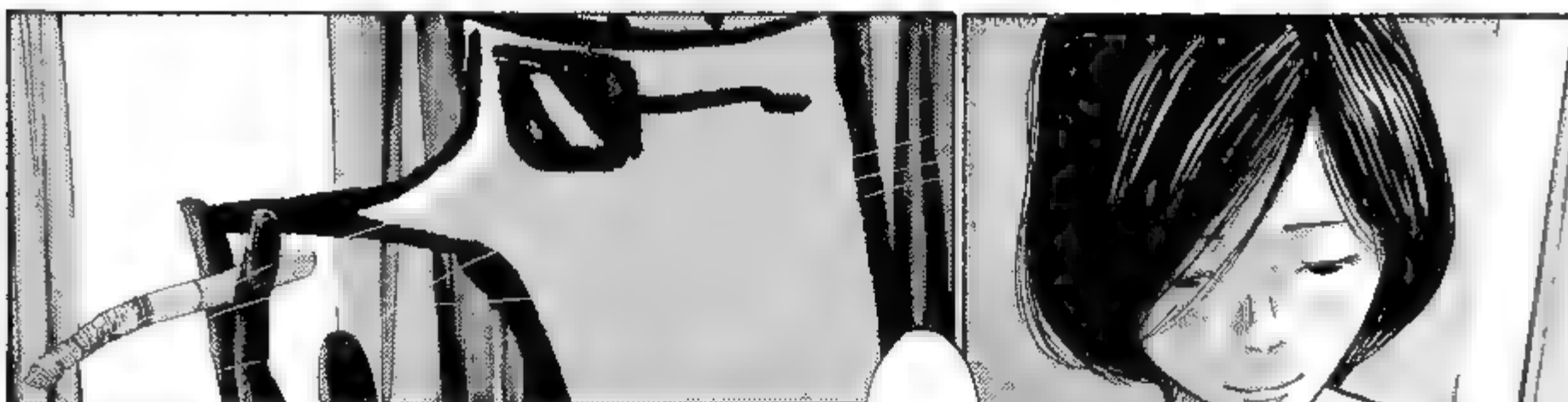
...

...that
this guy
was full
of it.





"I'm
going to
live on my
own."

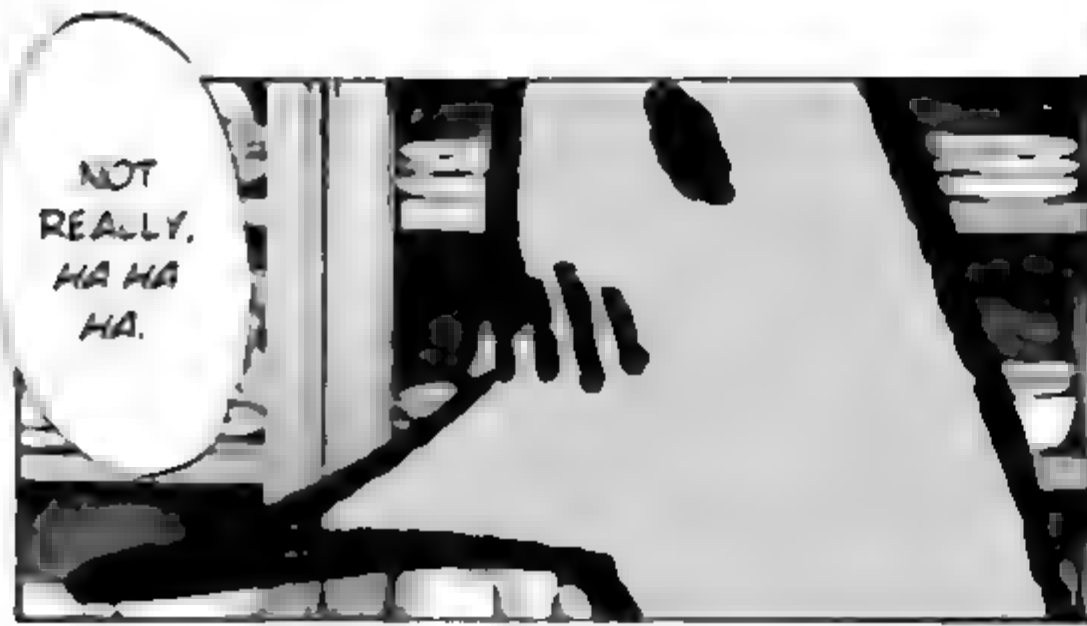


I
UNDER-
STAND.

...
RIGHT.

OKAY

...



NOT
REALLY.
HA HA
HA.



YOU
STILL
GOT
IT.



HAHA?

YUICHI,
DID YOU
MAKE
THIS
CLIP?



I
SEE.

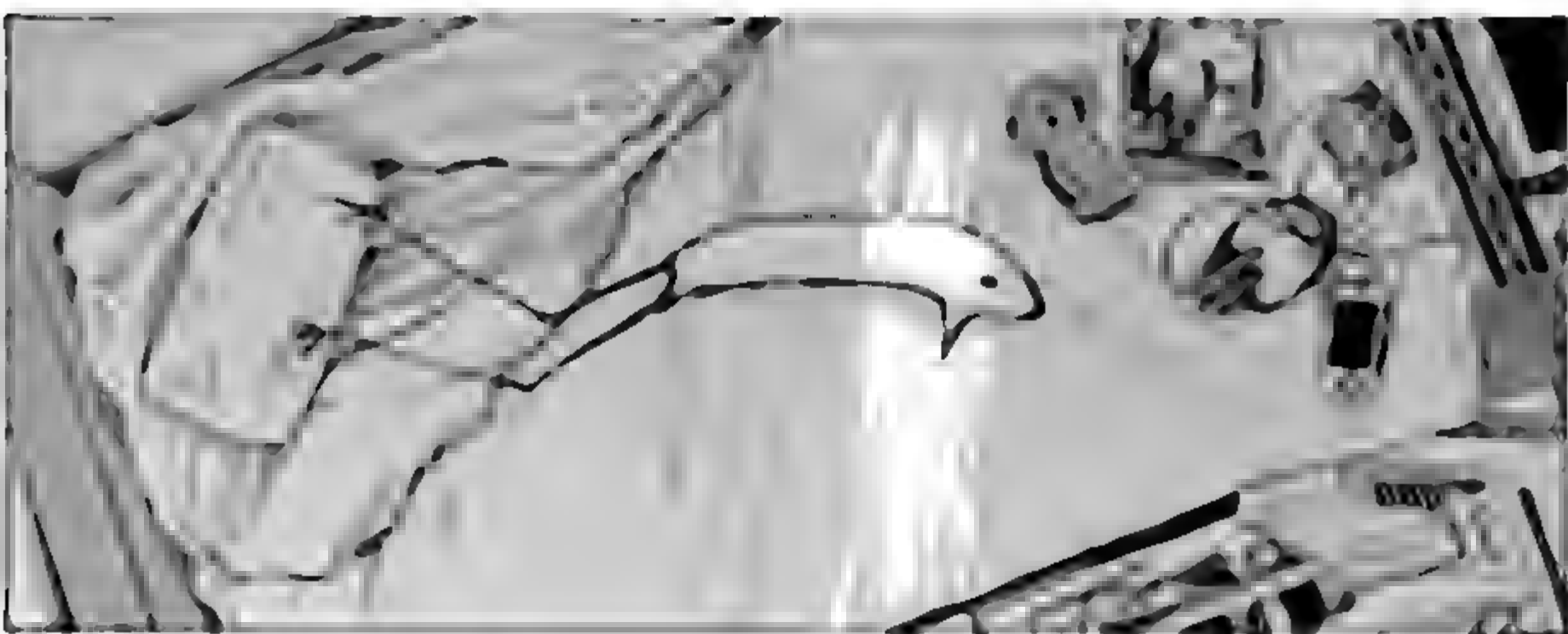
YEAH.







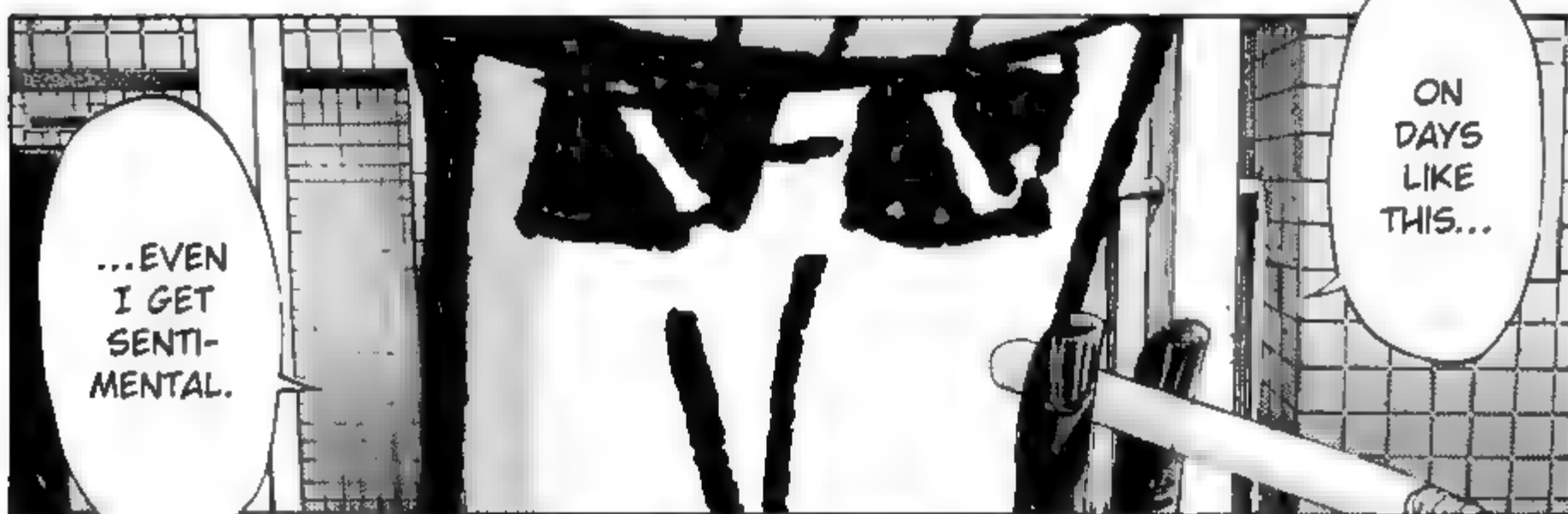






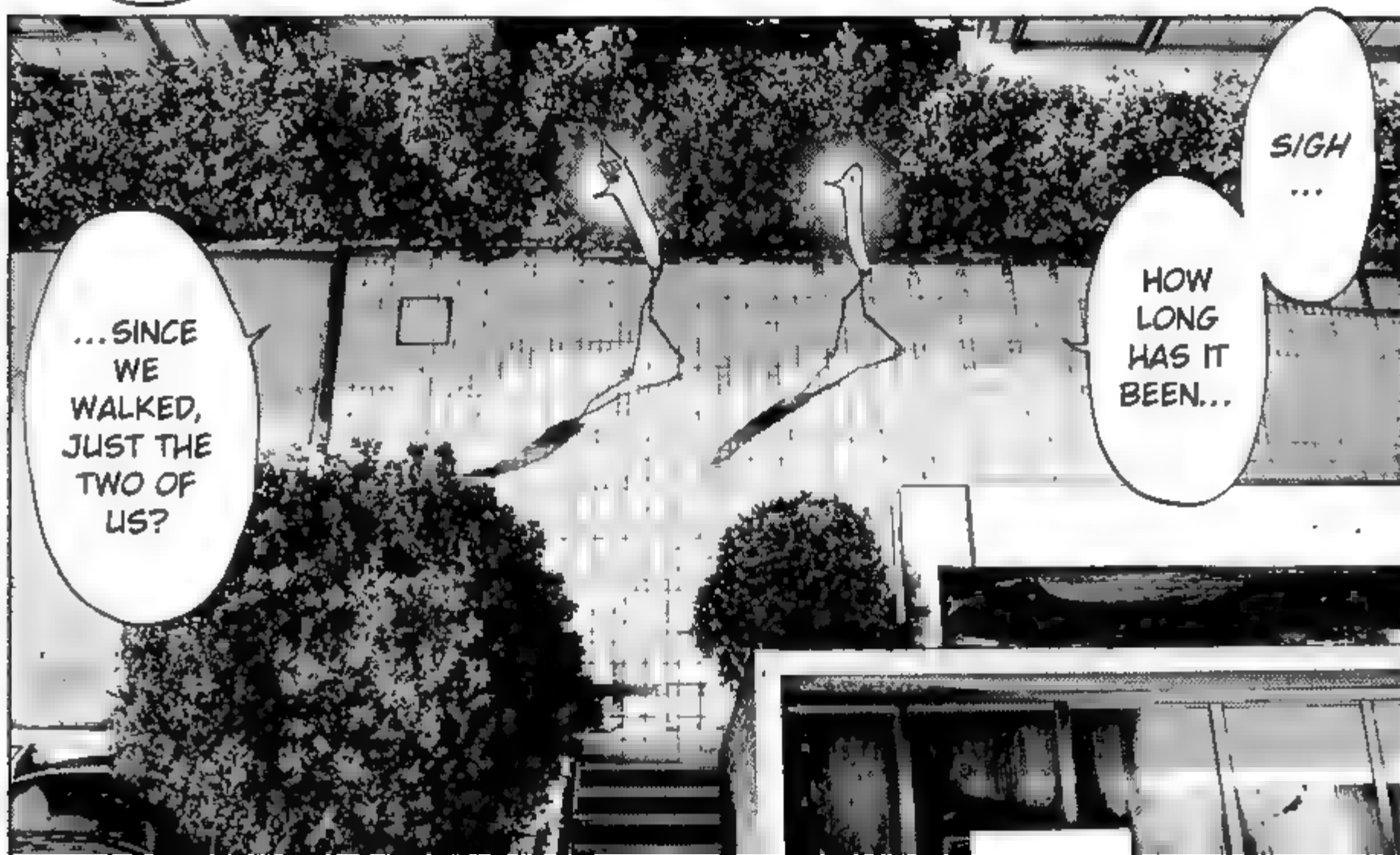
...TAKE
A LITTLE
WALK.

LET'S...



...EVEN
I GET
SENTI-
MENTAL.

ON
DAYS
LIKE
THIS...



...SINCE
WE
WALKED,
JUST THE
TWO OF
US?

HOW
LONG
HAS IT
BEEN...

SIGH
...



PEOPLE
ARE TOO
SELFISH

I THINK
I CAN
UNDER-
STAND
YOUR
FRUSTRA-
TION.

THAT
YOU AND
I ARE
ALIKE,
PUNDUN

YOU
KNOW,
I'VE
THOUGHT
FOR A
LONG
TIME ...

MY
SISTER,
YOUR DAD ...
AND ME
TOO, OF
COURSE



BUT
YOUR
DAD IS
SINCERE,
DEEP
DOWN .

...SO
DON'T
THINK TOO
BADLY
OF HIM,
OKAY?



HE
DOESN'T
WANT
THAT
EITHER.

YOU
DON'T
NEED
TO PITY
HIM.



YOU
READ
WHAT
YOU
SON

MOST
THINGS THAT
HAPPEN IN
LIFE ARE OF
OUR OWN
MAKING.

RIGHT?



ALL
THAT
CAN BE
WORTH-
WHILE, OF
COURSE...

MONEY,
DREAMS,
CONSIDER-
ATION FOR
OTHERS?



PUNPUN



BUT
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
THING IS
RESOLVE.

WHAT'S
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
ASPECT
OF BEING
HUMAN?



I WON'T SAY A THING ABOUT YOUR DECISION.

WHETHER YOU BECOME A SHUT-IN OR A MURDERER, IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS.

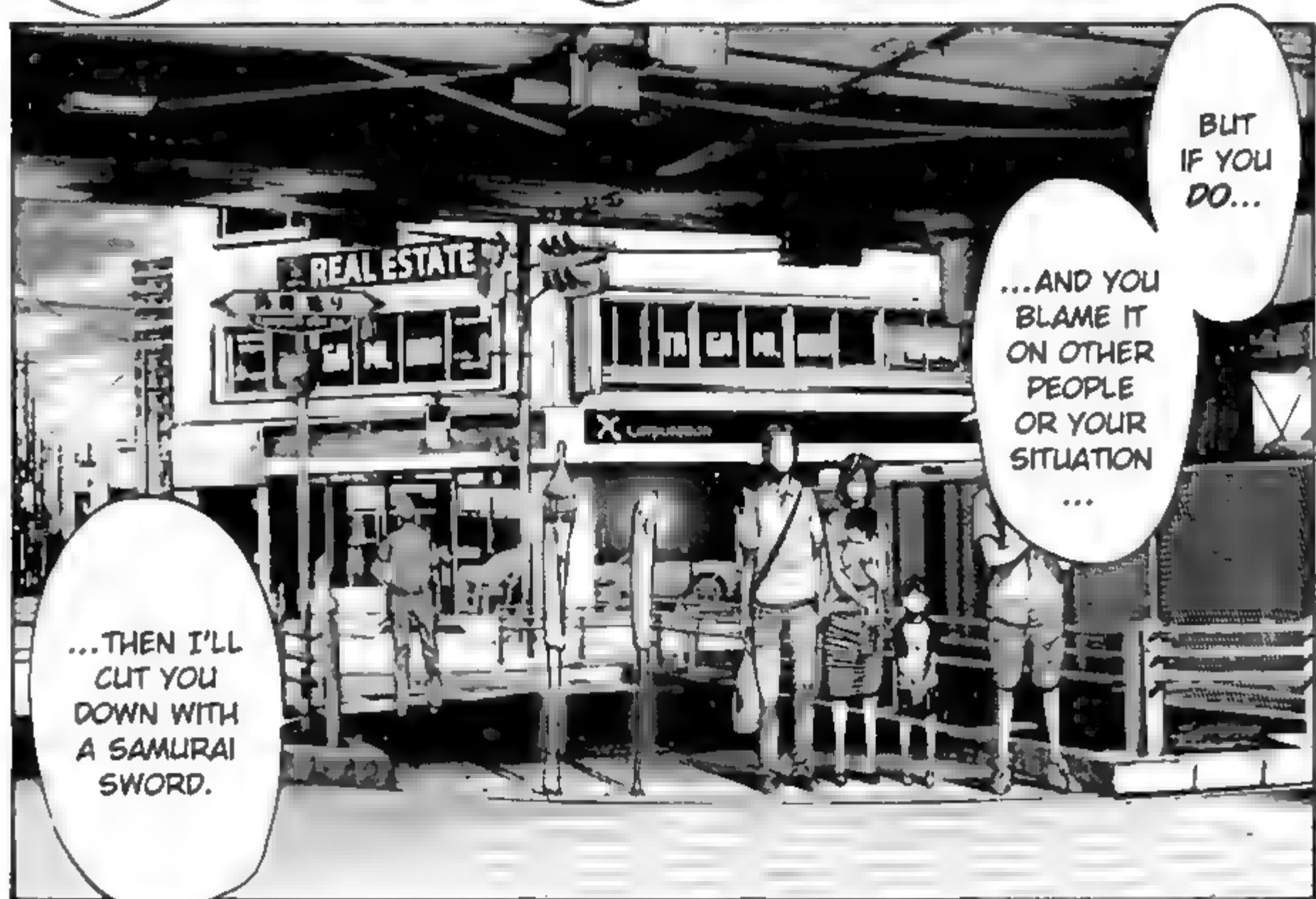


WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO LIVE ALONE...

...I WAS HONESTLY THRILLED.



REALLY, MY DICK GOT ALL TWISTED UP.



BUT IF YOU DO...

...AND YOU BLAME IT ON OTHER PEOPLE OR YOUR SITUATION ...

...THEN I'LL CUT YOU DOWN WITH A SAMURAI SWORD.



LISTEN CLOSELY, YOU LITTLE SHIT...

LIFE'S SURPRISINGLY FULL OF FREEDOM.

BUT DON'T FORGET, BOY— WITH FREEDOM COMES RESPONSIBILITY.



MOST
OF ME
MOST OF
WHAT
MADE ME
ME, DIED

THE
FIRST
TIME I
CAME IN
MIDORI



WHEN I
DECIDED
TO
MARRY
MIDORI

WE
TOLD
EACH
OTHER
EVERY-
THING

SO

I
KNOW
WHAT
HAPPENED
WITH YOU
TWO



I CAN
EVEN SAY
THAT I
LOVE YOU.

BUT I
WASN'T
ANGRY



PUNPUN

9





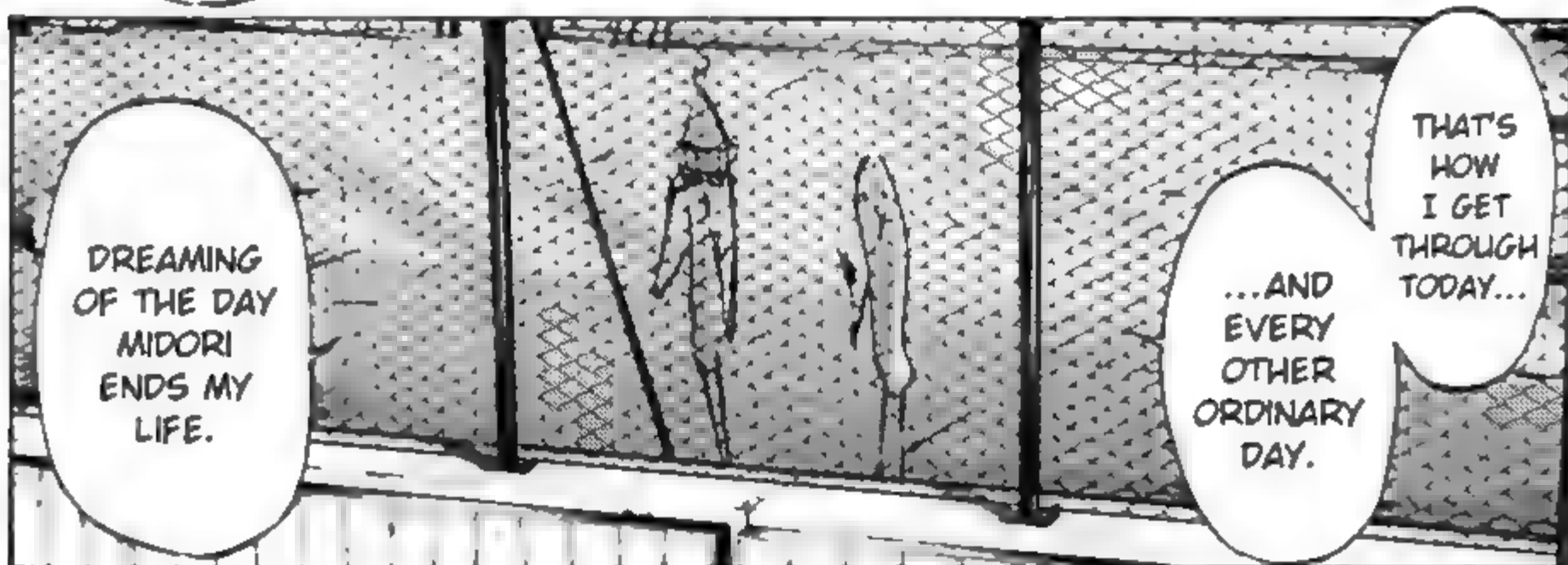
I
THINK...

...LIFE
IS SO
INTER-
ESTING.



EVEN A
WORTHLESS
PIECE OF
GARBAGE
LIKE ME CAN
SOMETIMES
FEEL LIKE
THAT.

THERE
ISN'T A
SECOND
WASTED
IN BEING
ALIVE.



DREAMING
OF THE DAY
MIDORI
ENDS MY
LIFE.

...AND
EVERY
OTHER
ORDINARY
DAY.

THAT'S
HOW
I GET
THROUGH
TODAY...

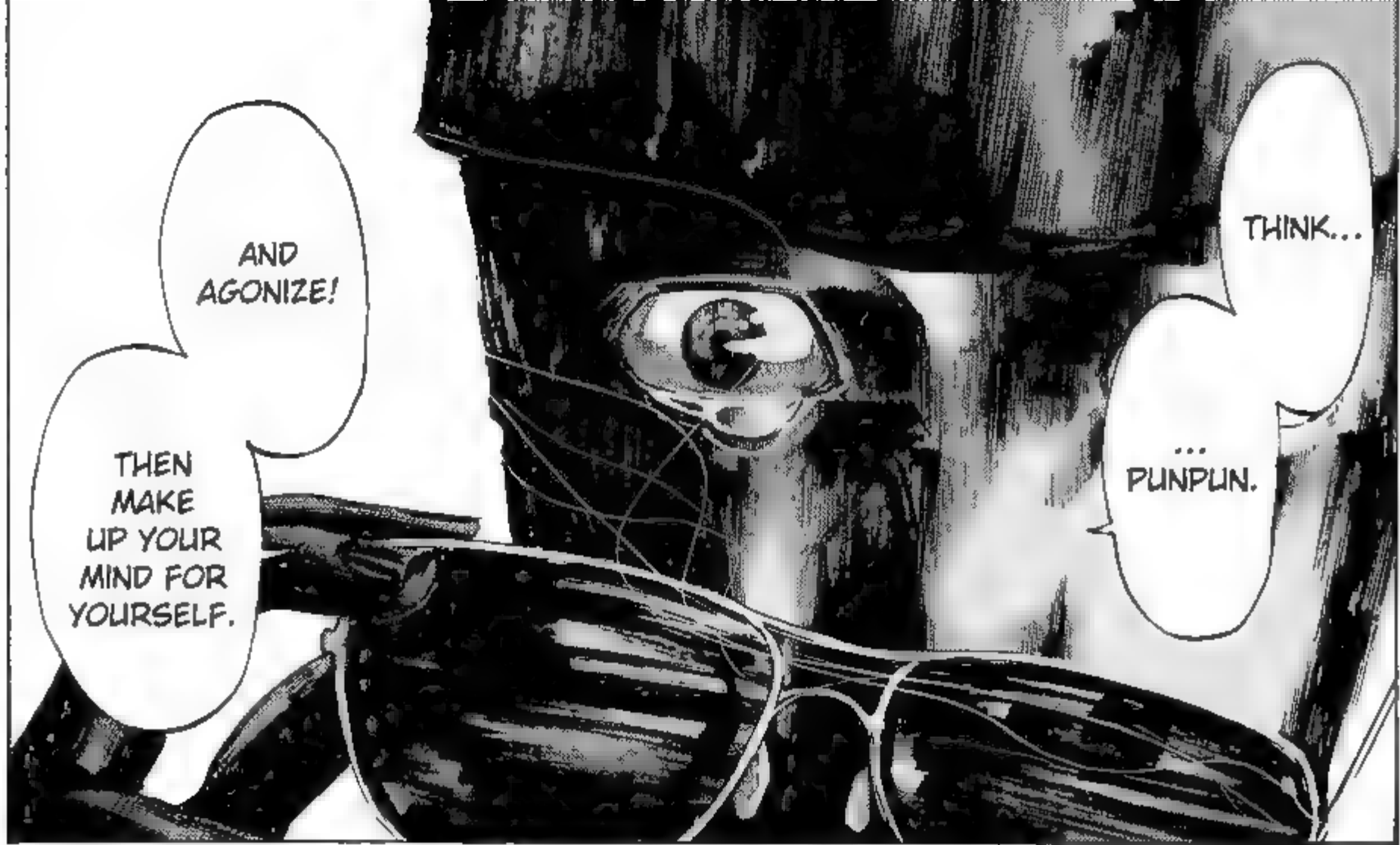


...WHERE
ARE YOU
PLANNING
TO DIE?

PUNPUN...

AND
WHEN IT
HAPPENS
WILL YOUR
LIFE HAVE
BEEN
WORTH IT?



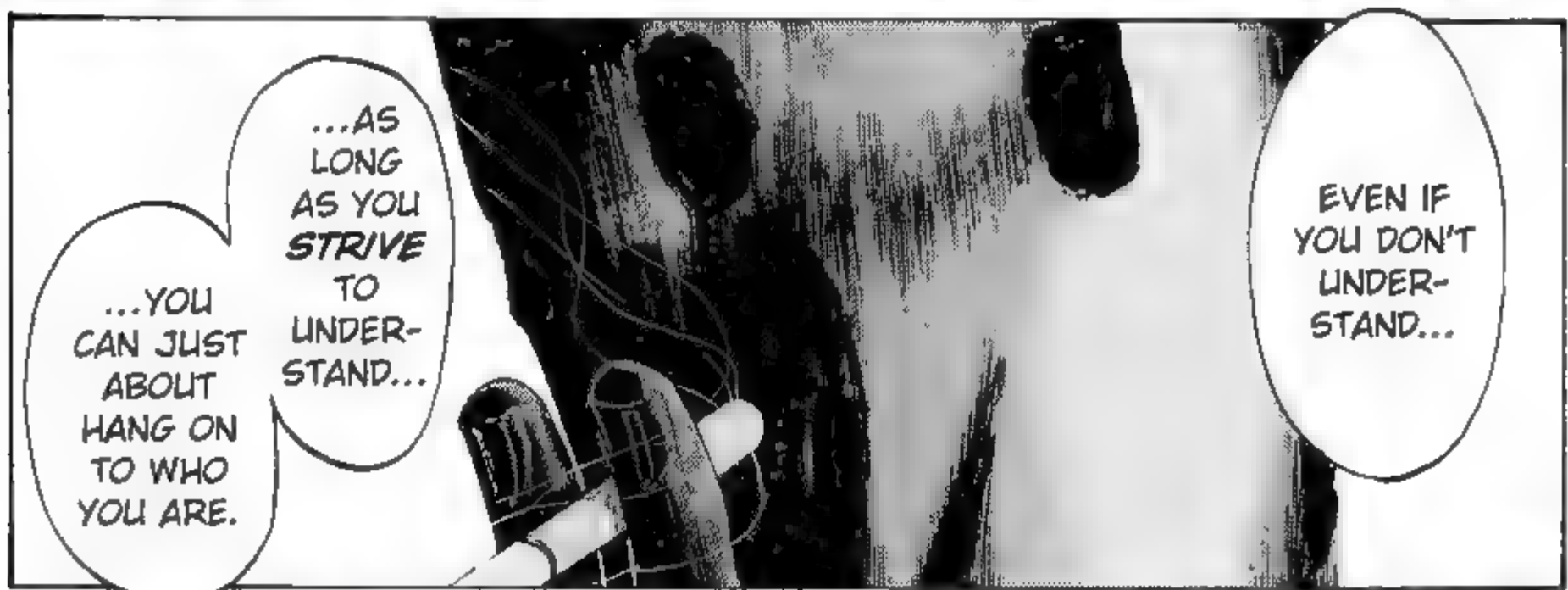


AND
AGONIZE!

THEN
MAKE
UP YOUR
MIND FOR
YOURSELF.

THINK...

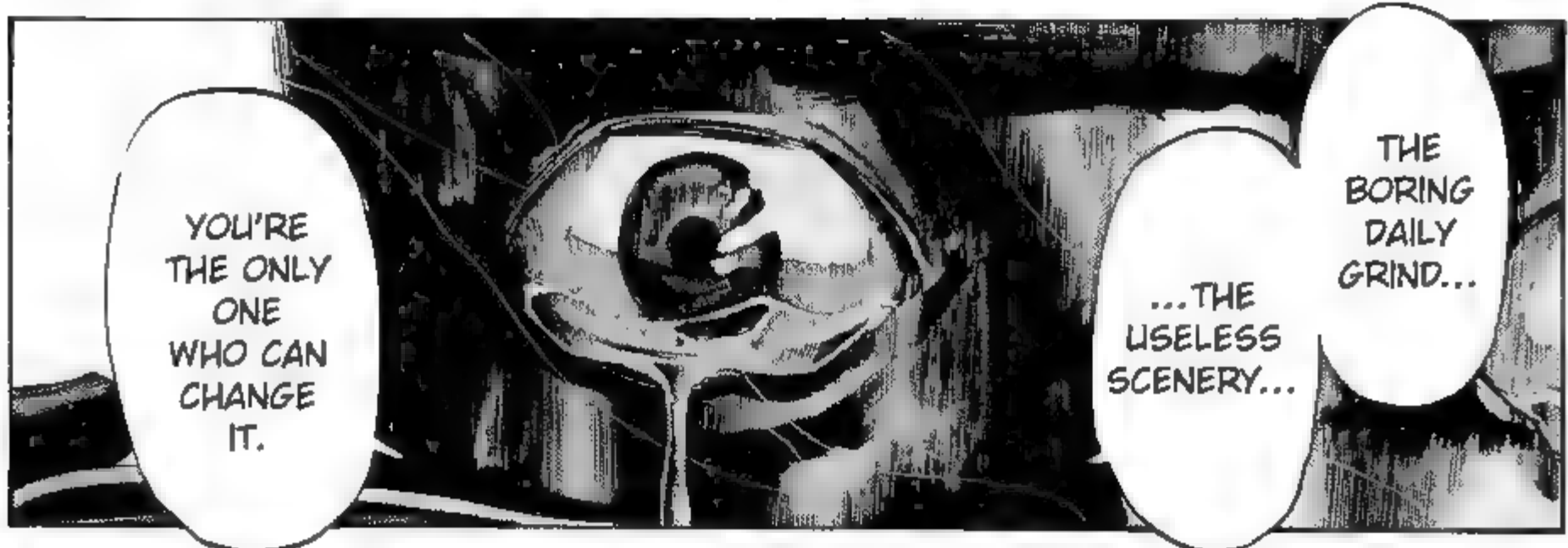
...
PUNPUN.



...YOU
CAN JUST
ABOUT
HANG ON
TO WHO
YOU ARE.

...AS
LONG
AS YOU
STRIVE
TO
UNDER-
STAND...

EVEN IF
YOU DON'T
UNDER-
STAND...



YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE
WHO CAN
CHANGE
IT.

...THE
USELESS
SCENERY...

THE
BORING
DAILY
GRIND...



...AS
LONG
AS YOU
REMAIN
YOU...

SO,
PUNPUN
...

...and
melted
into the
sunset.

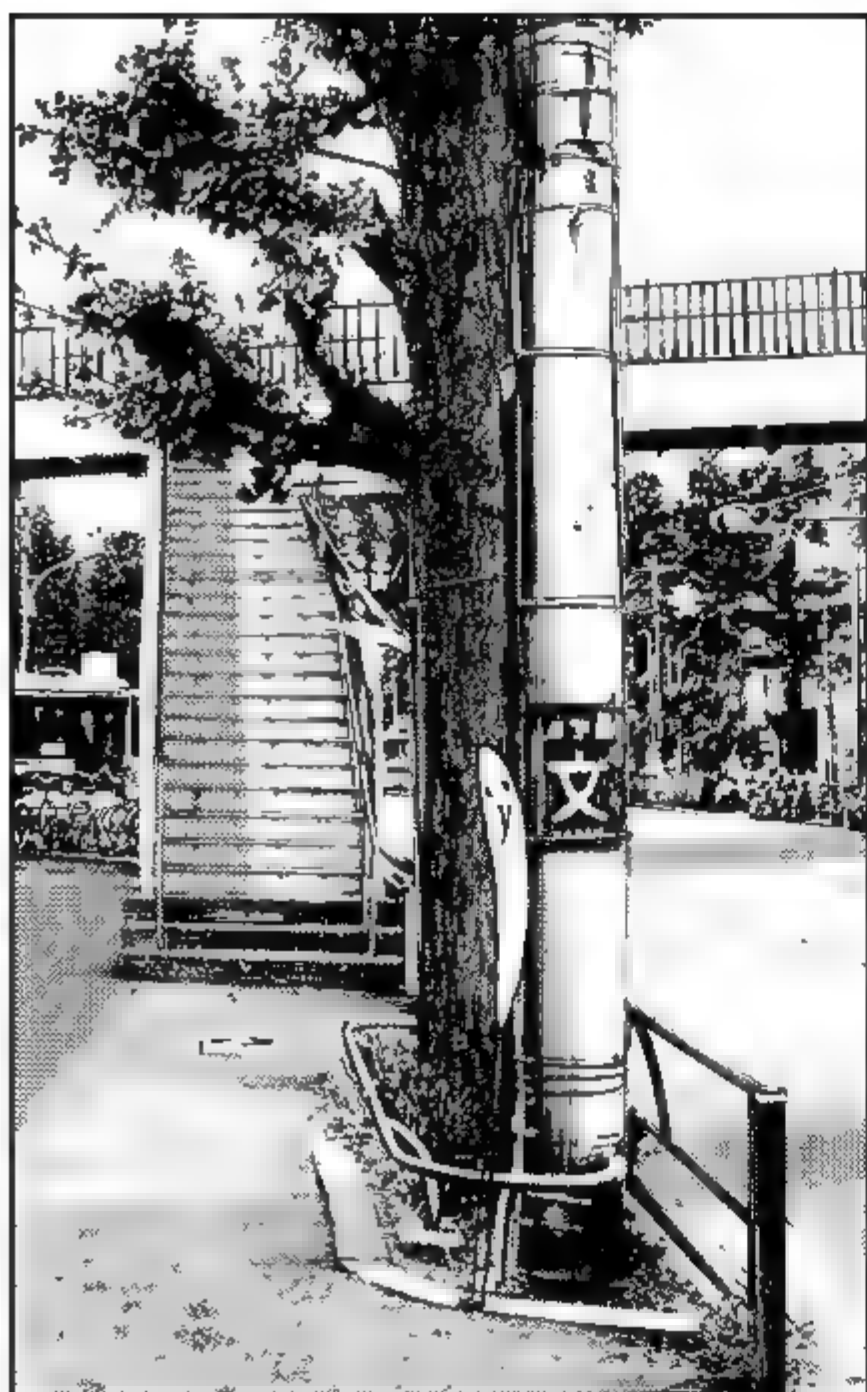
The
cigarette
smoke
dispersed
listlessly...

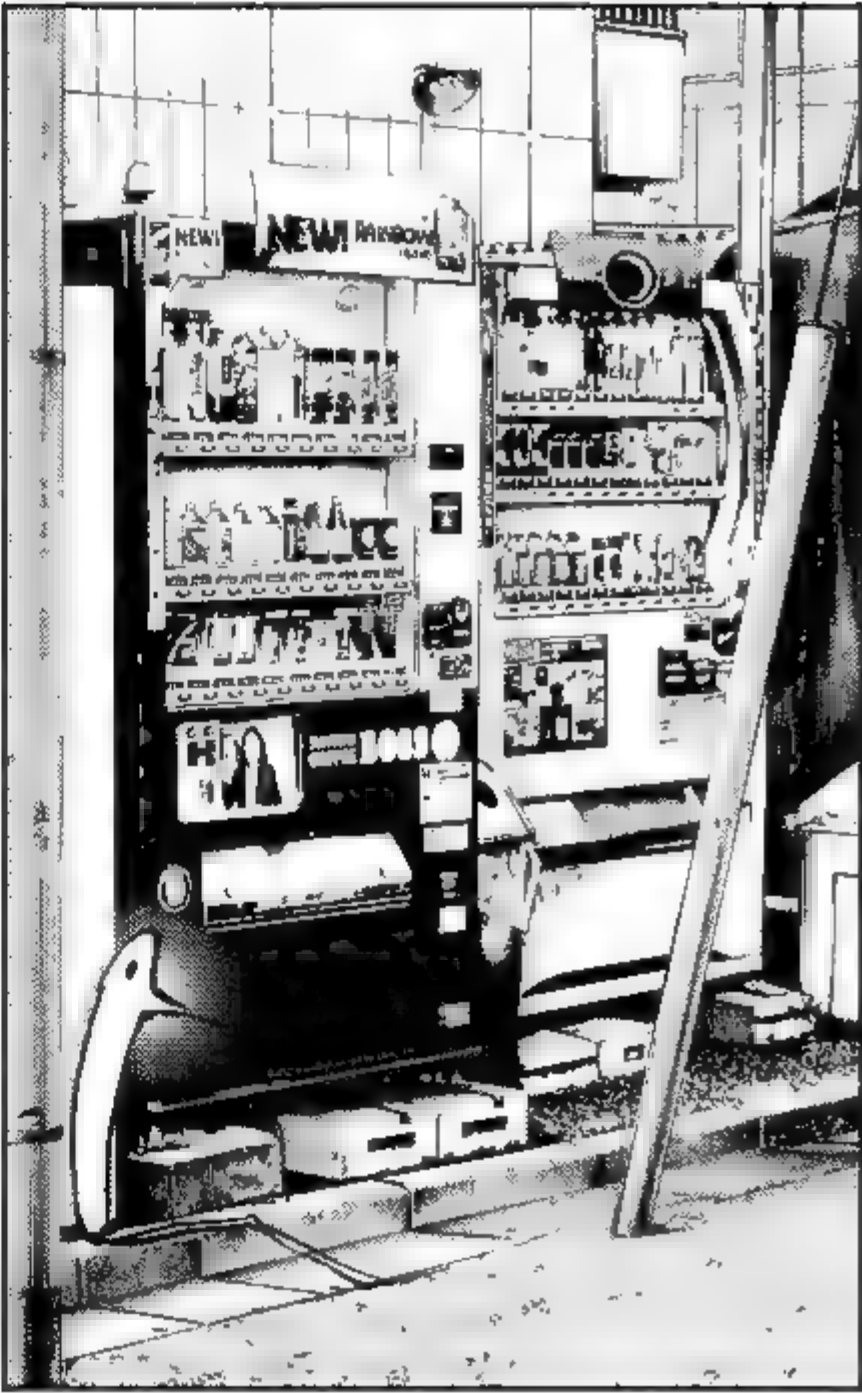


...breathed
the smoke
in deeply.

...
Punpun
...

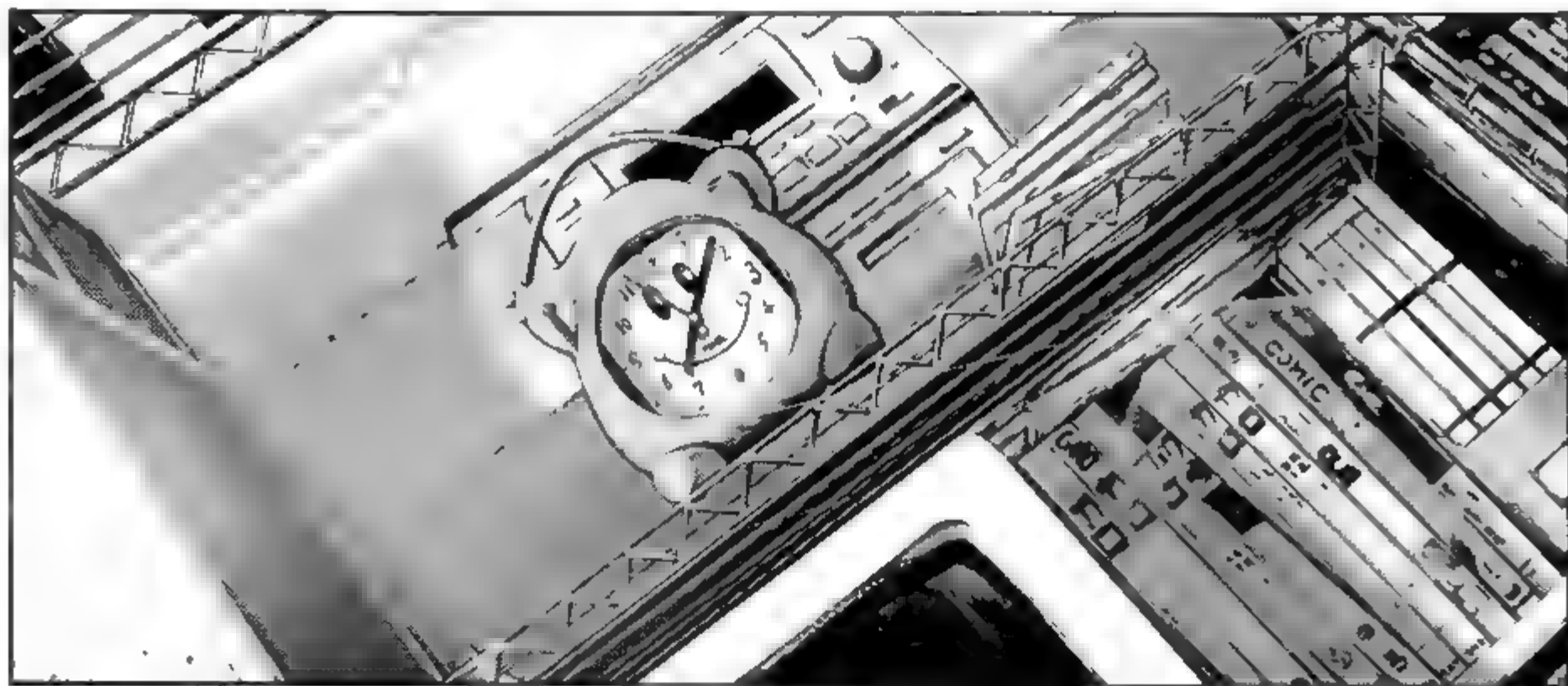
As if to
confirm
that he
could
never go
back...







The
sound
of the
second
hand
ticking
deep in
his ear.



The alarm
clock that
would
go off at
7:10.



The
familiar
news.



A
cardigan
and a
striped
scarf.



The
smell of
morning.



A group
of children
going to
school,
their breath
white
plumes.



The
station
platform,
a mixture
of yawns
and sighs.

The
7:45
local
train.



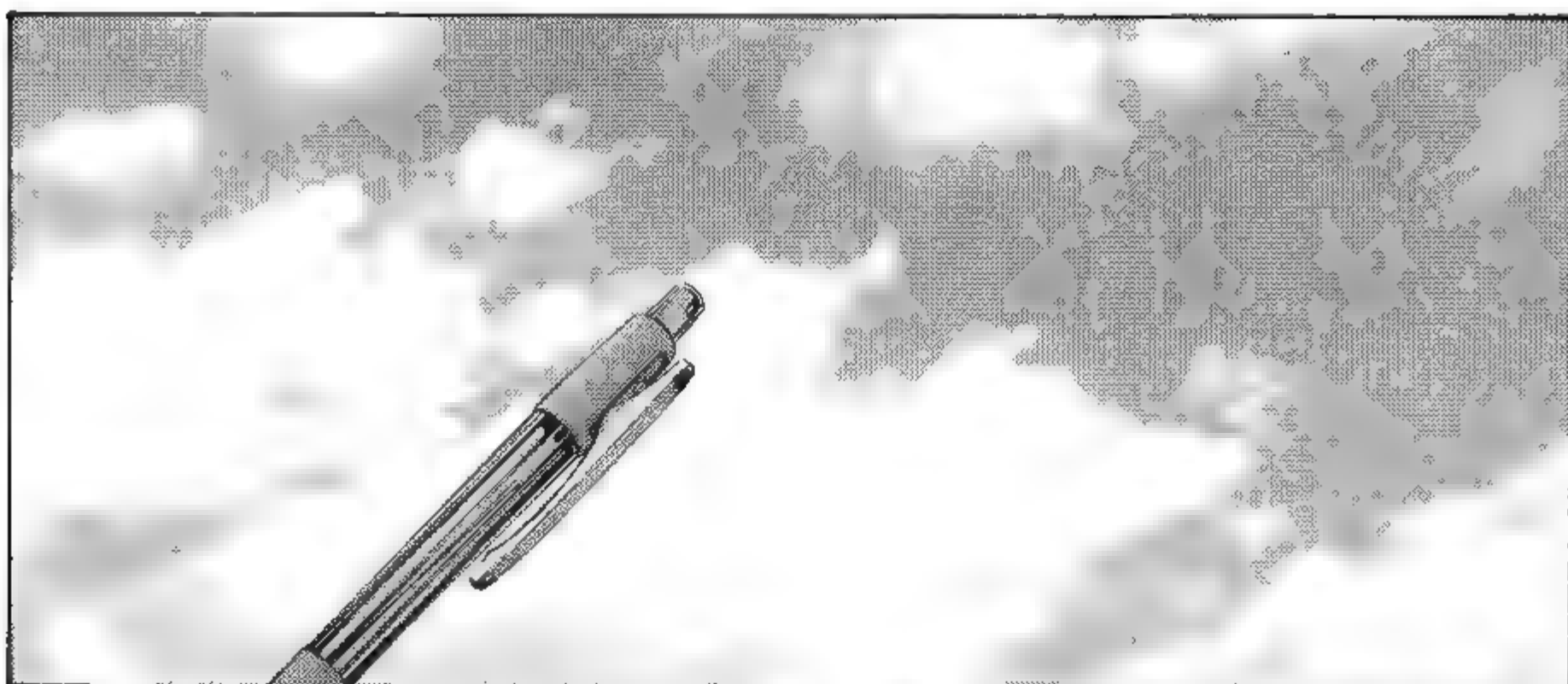
J-pop
leaking from
headphones.

Conversations
with no
substance.



Footsteps
running up
the stairs.

The
hectic
sound
of
locker
doors.



The
winter
sky.

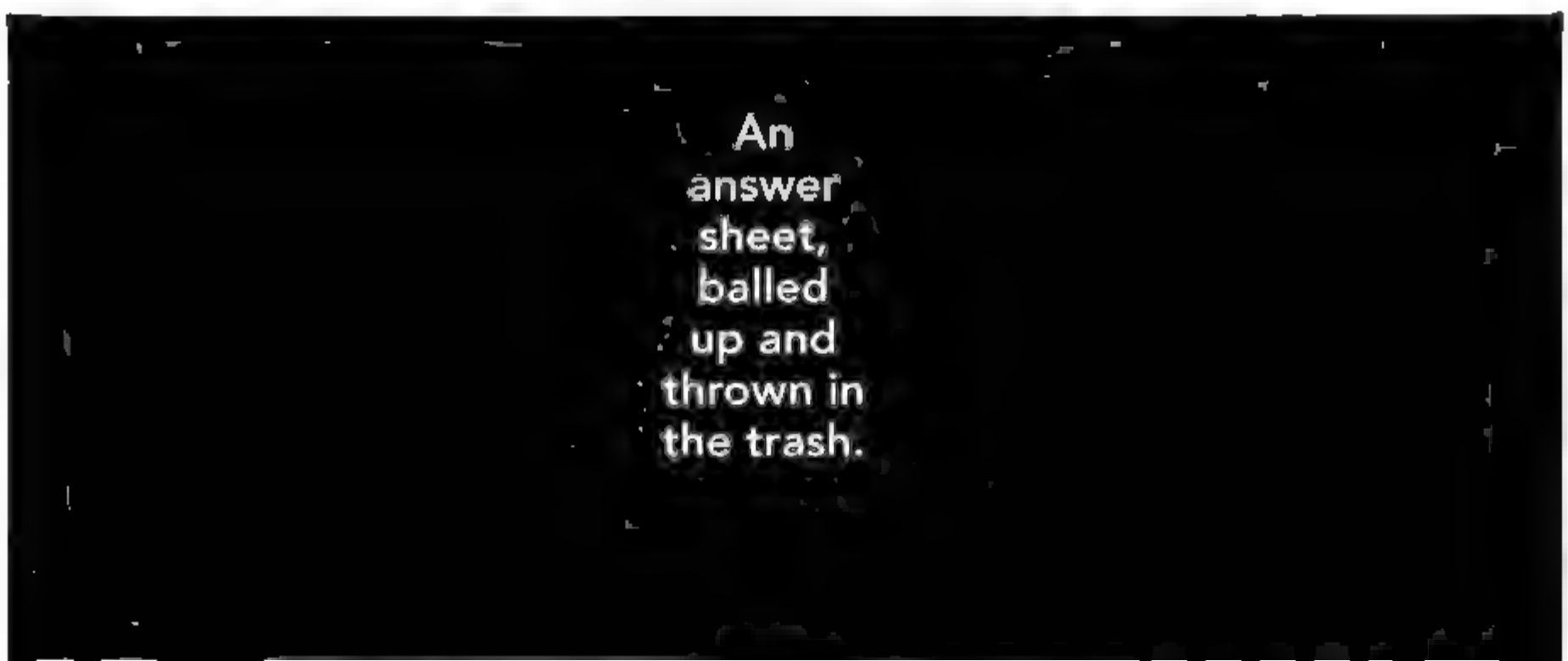
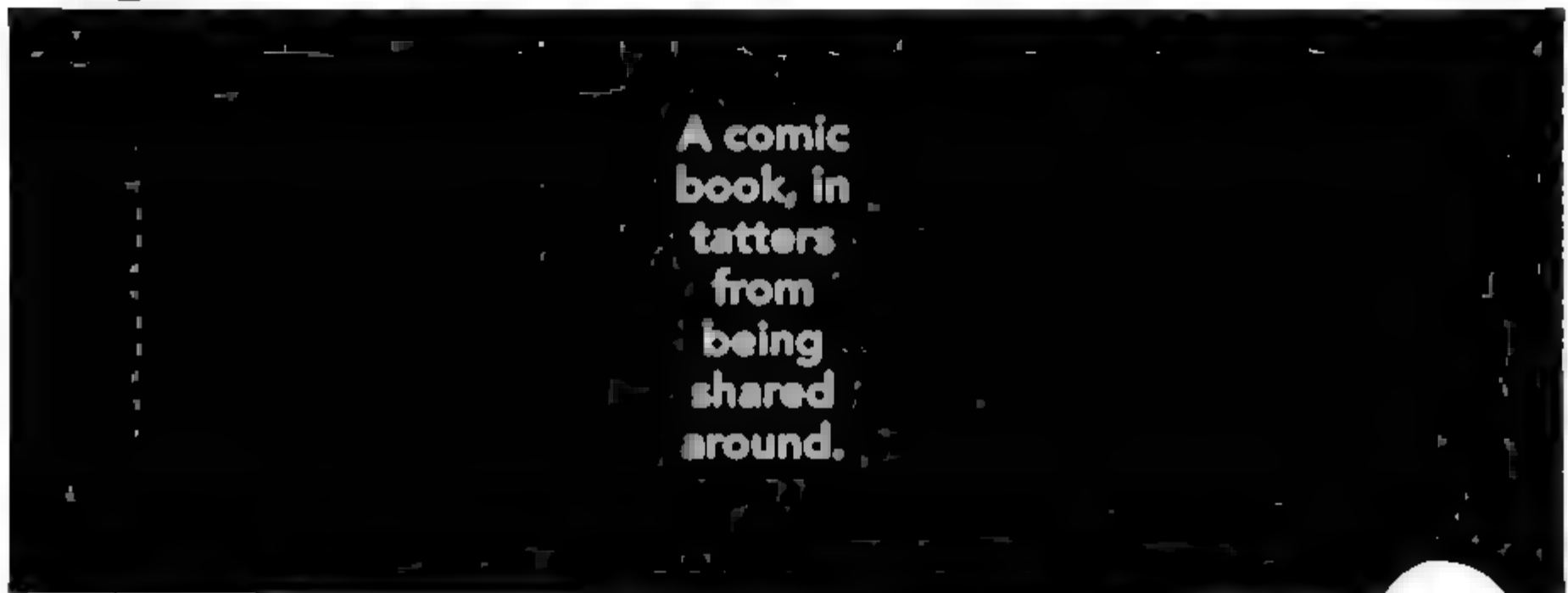
The
scratch of
pencil on
paper.

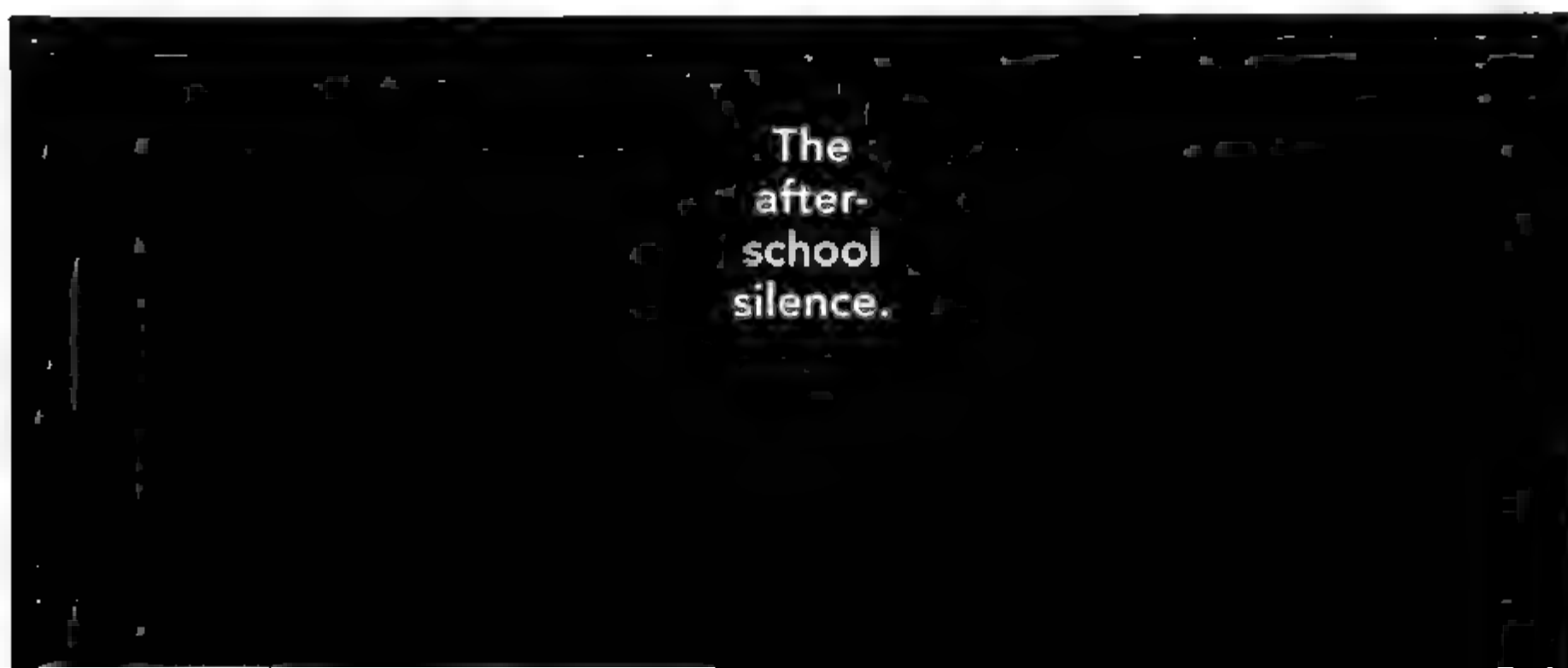
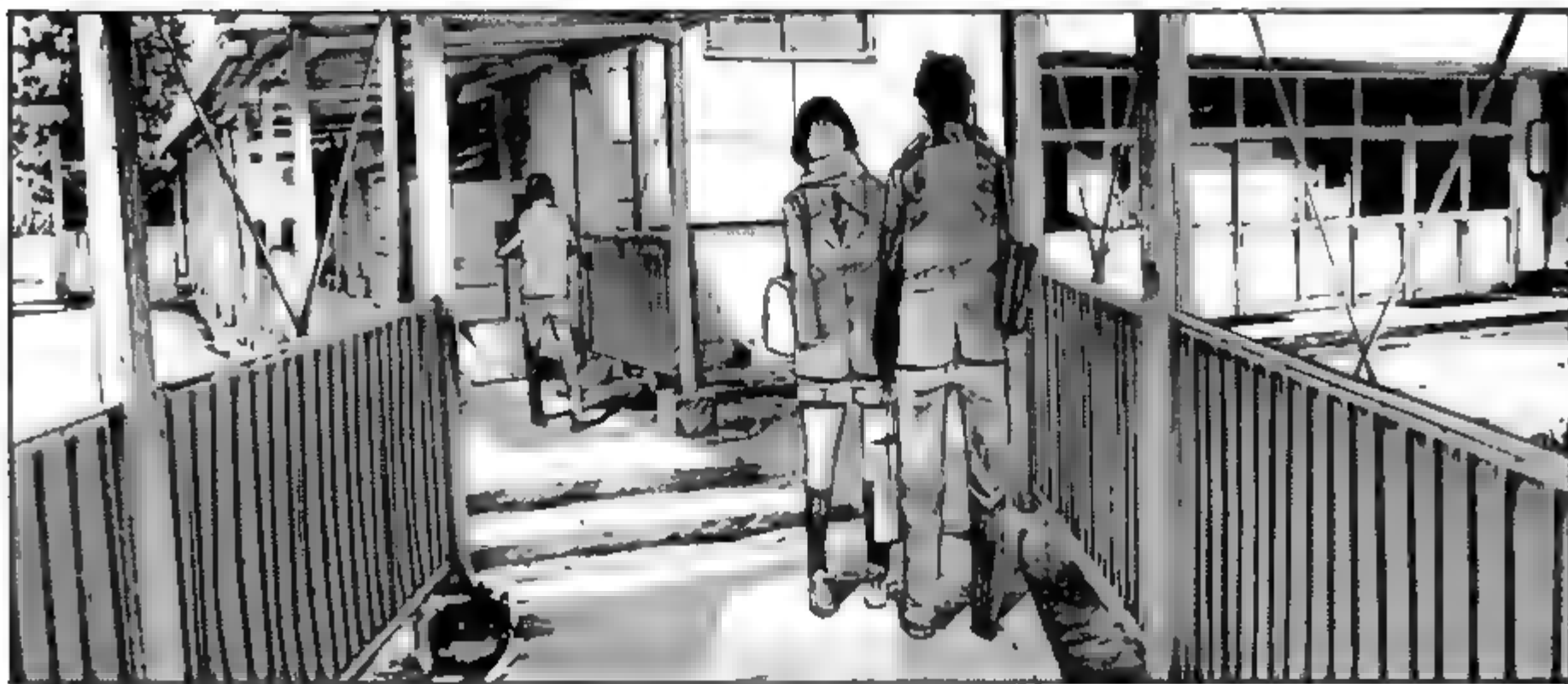
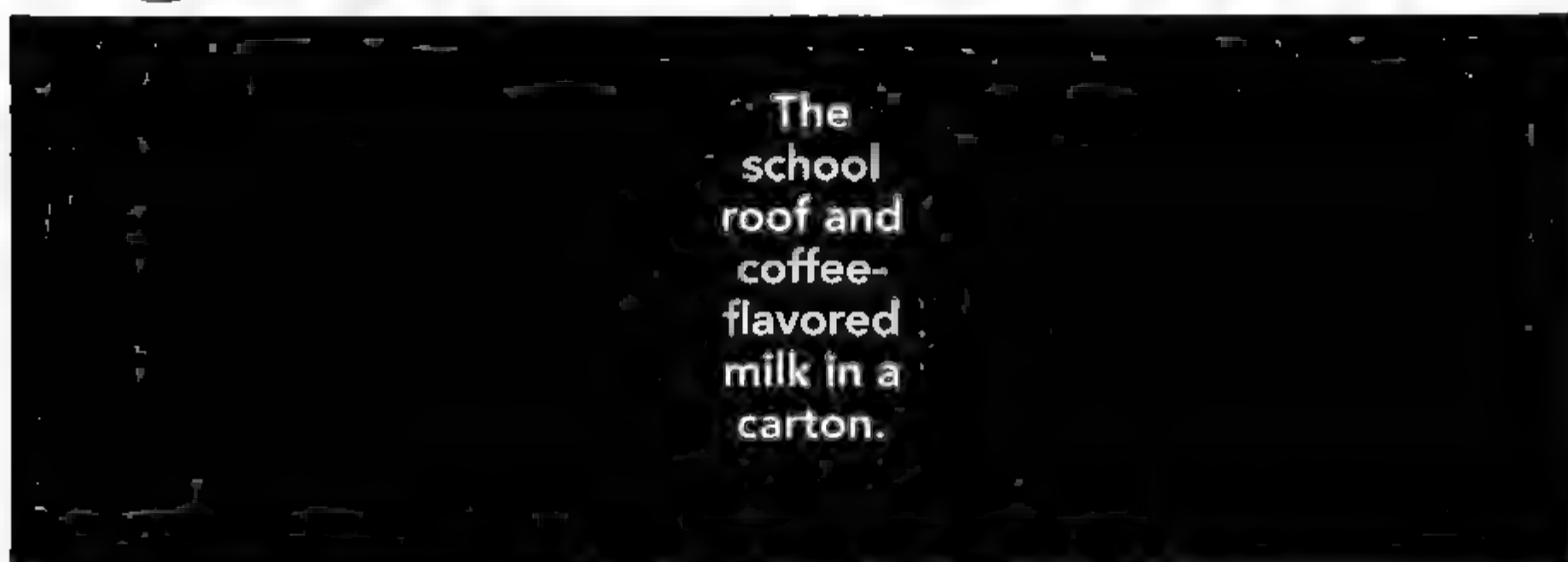


The
familiar
classroom.



Someone's
lip balm
falling off
a desk
and rolling
across the
floor.

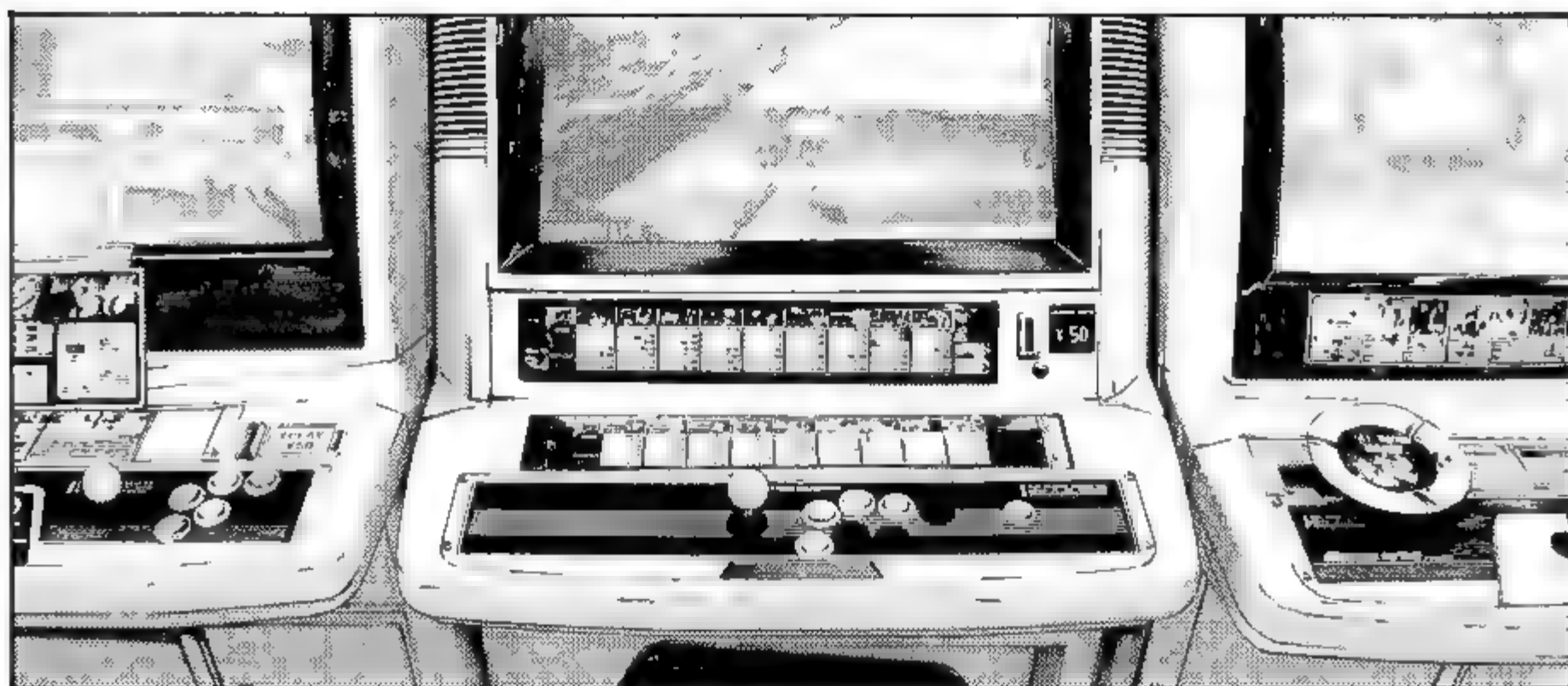






Christmas
songs
over the
store loud-
speakers.

The
sale bin
at the
video
store.



The
fifty-cent
combat
game
at the
arcade.

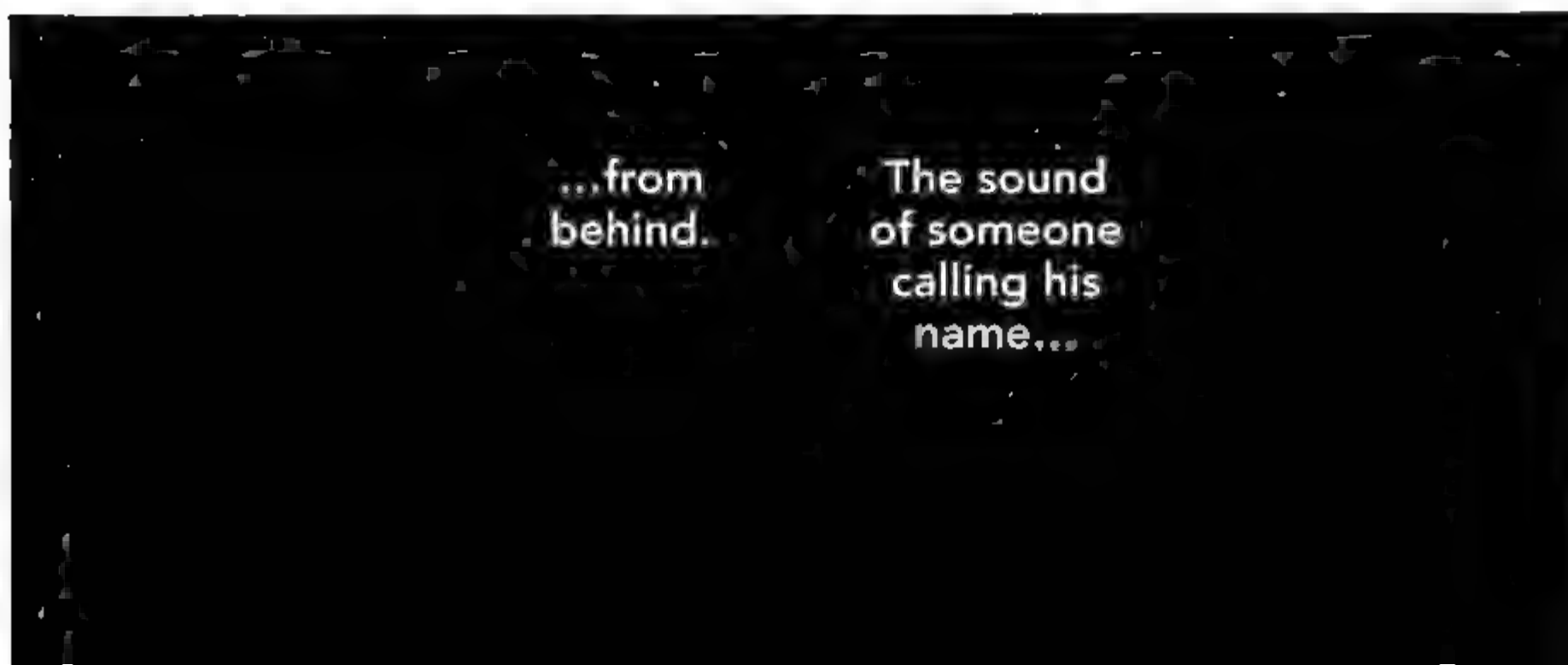
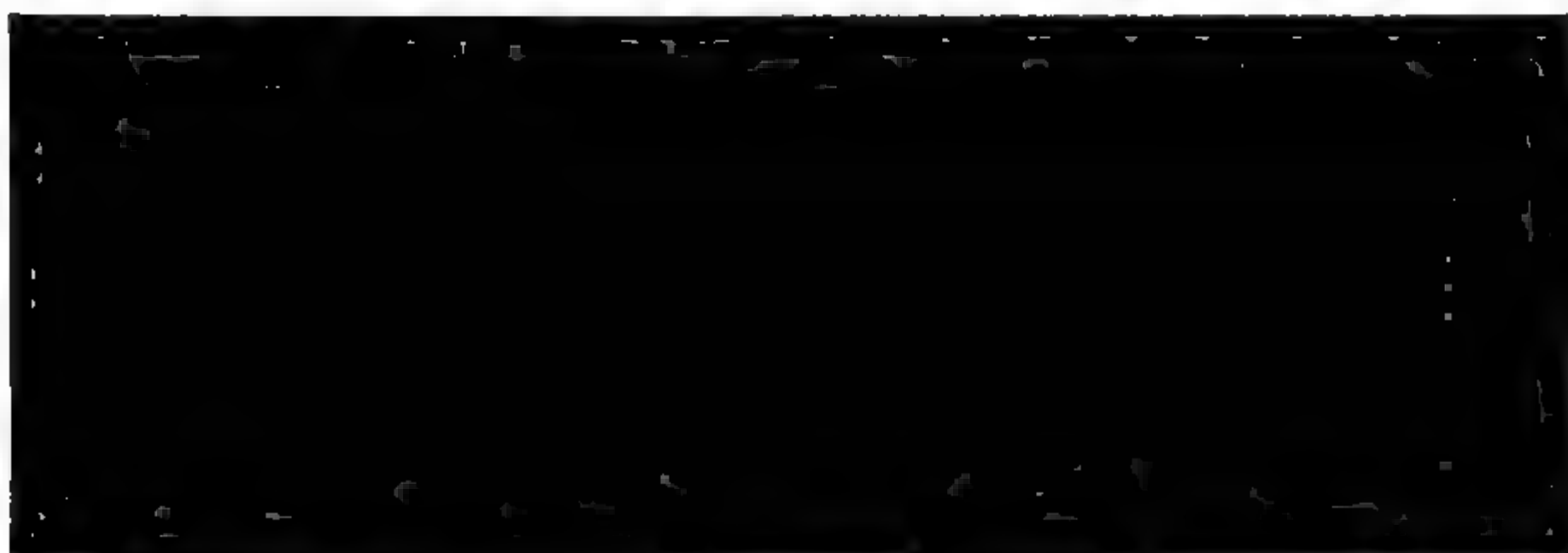


People,
people,
people...

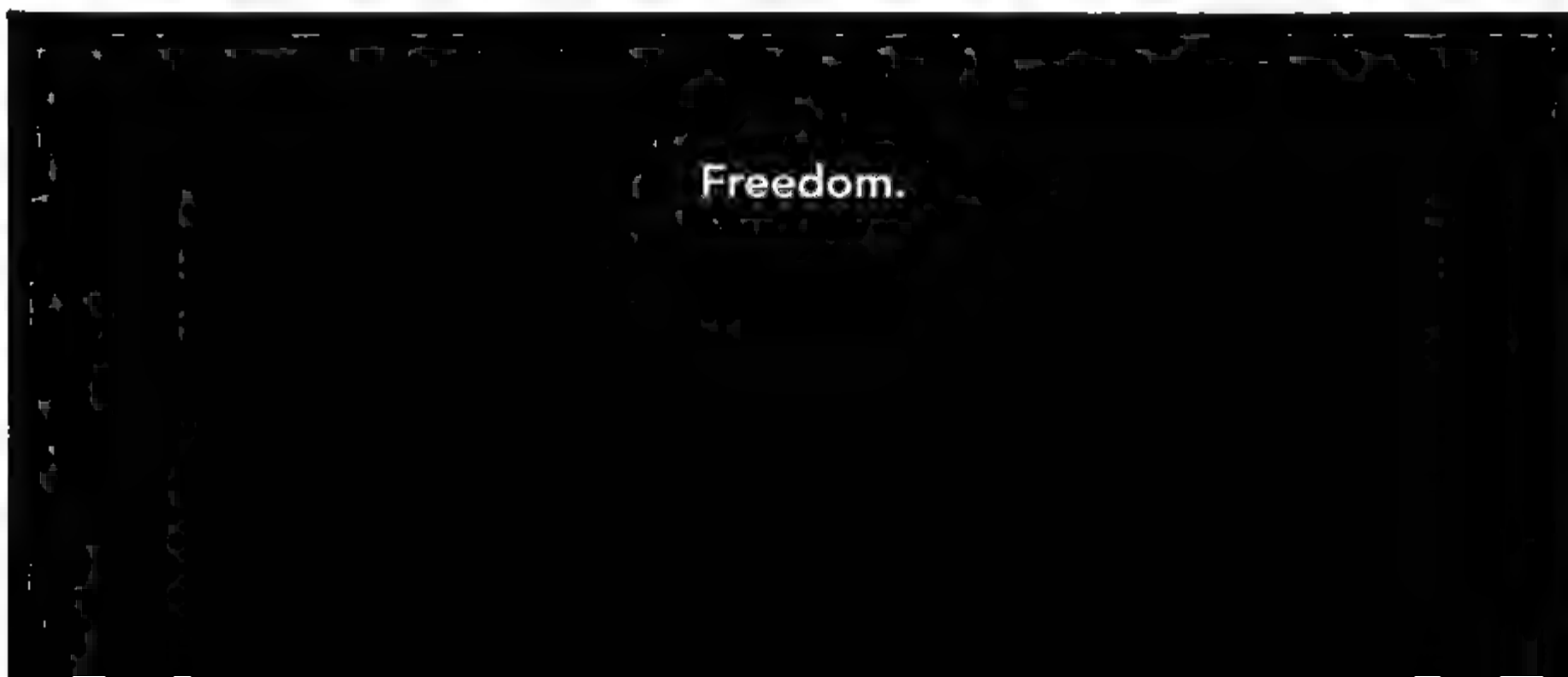
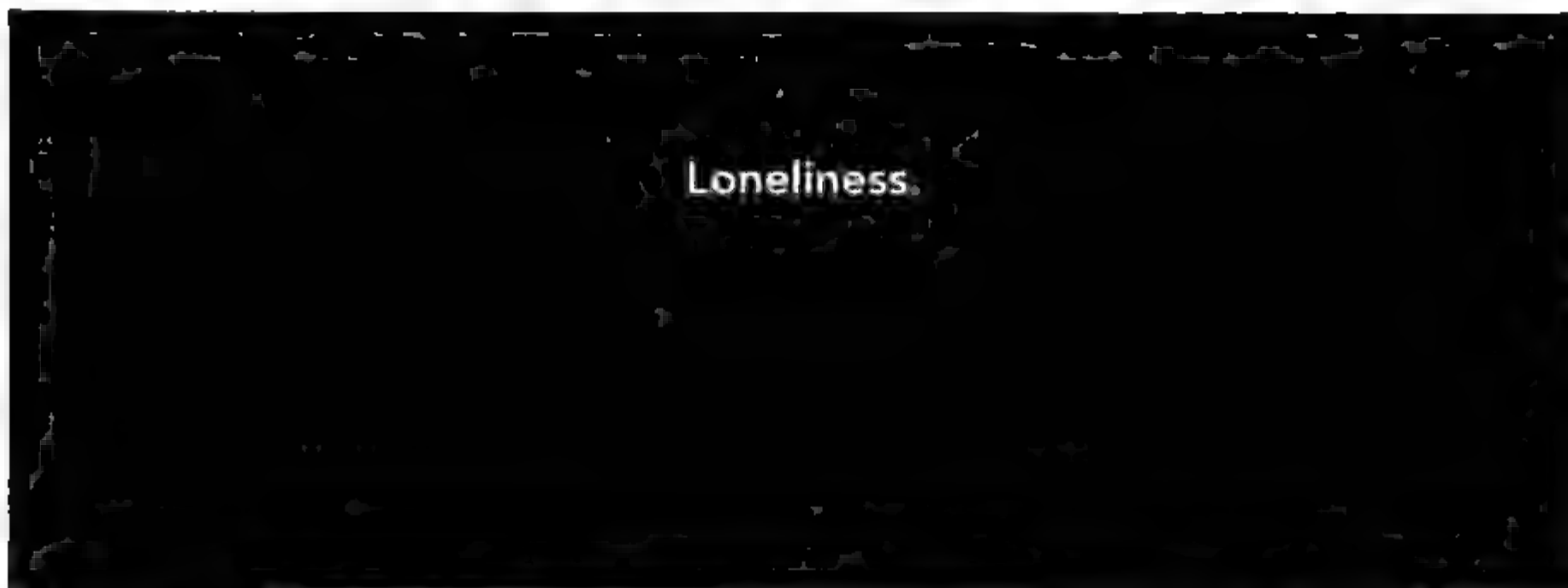
The hustle
and bustle
of town in
December.



...just
rushing
by.









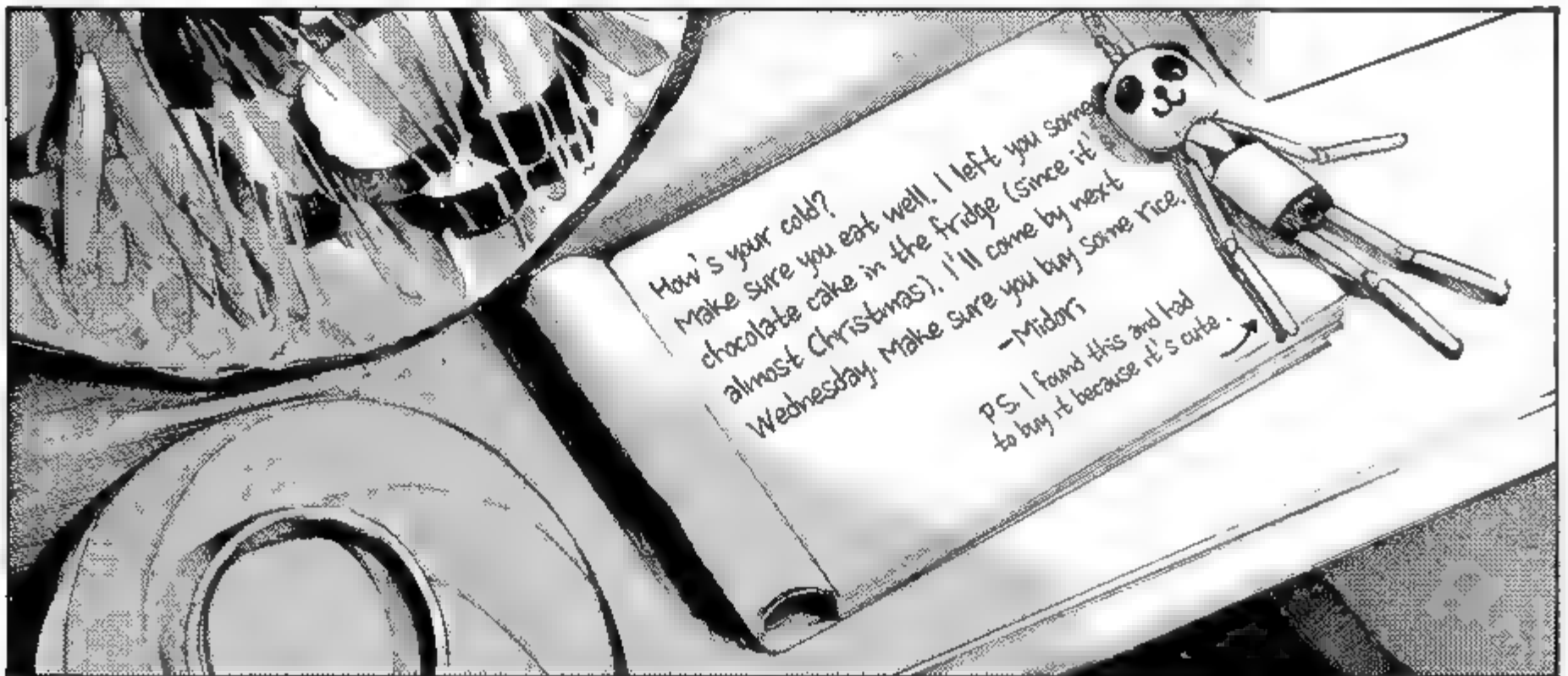
The
manga
section
of the
convenience
store.



Canned
coffee with
just a little
sugar.



A
very
dark
room.



How's your cold?
Make sure you eat well. I left you some
chocolate cake in the fridge (since it's
almost Christmas). I'll come by next
Wednesday. Make sure you buy some rice.
-Midori

P.S. I found this and had
to buy it because it's cute.

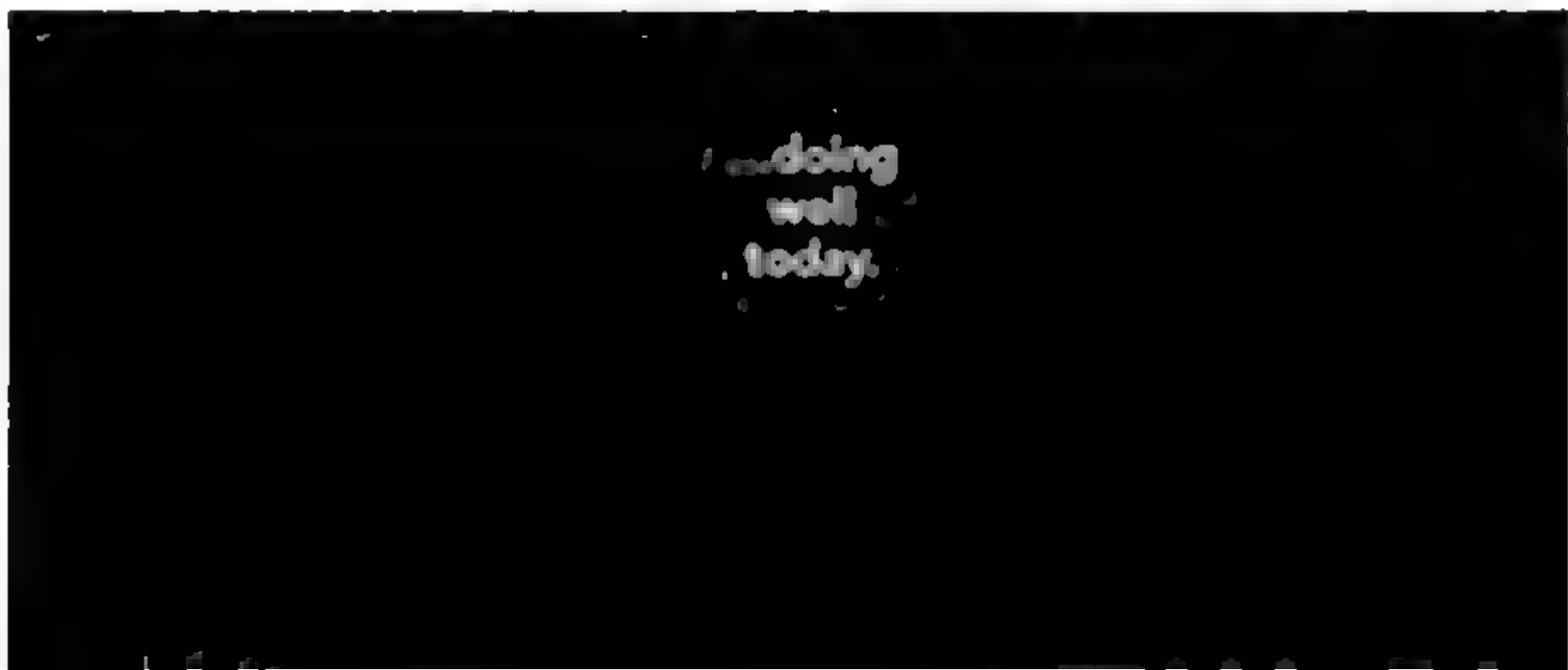
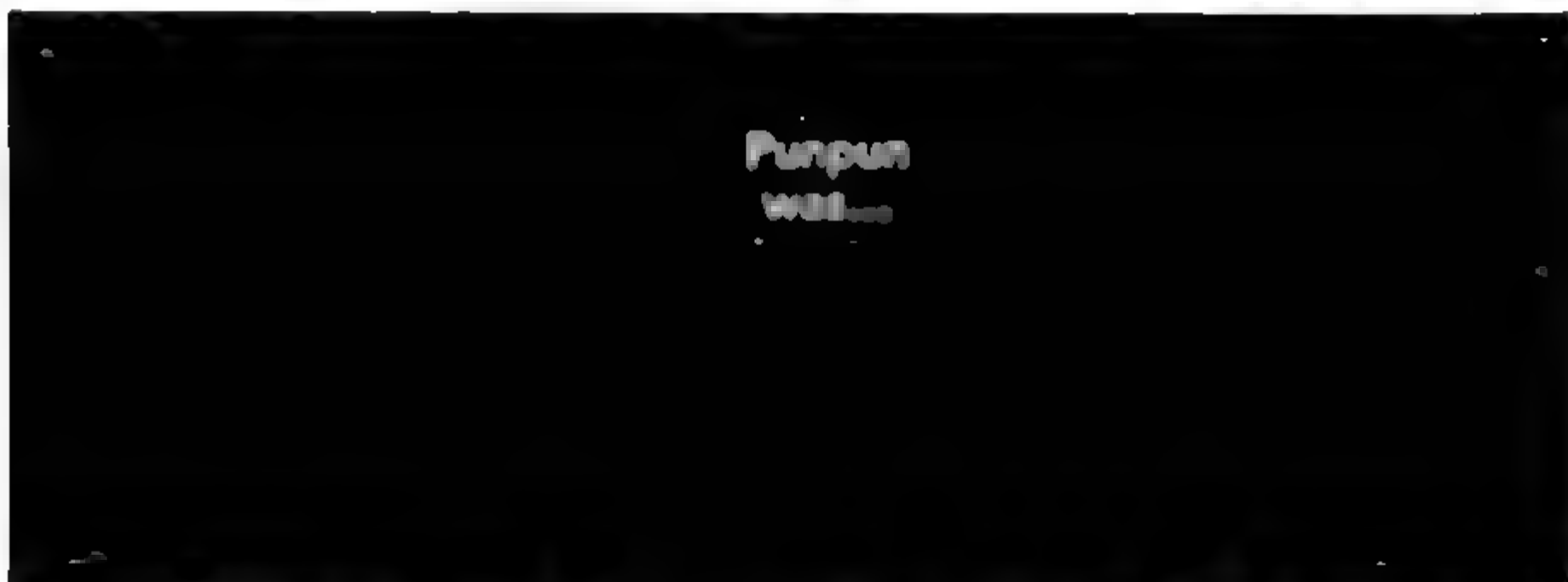
A
cold
dinner.



The
familiar
news.



The
alarm
clock
set to
7:10.





A black and white illustration of a night sky. The background is dark and filled with numerous small, five-pointed stars of varying sizes. In the upper left corner, a crescent moon is depicted with a small, stylized figure inside it. Several bright, curved lines representing shooting stars or comets streak across the sky, primarily from the bottom left towards the top right. The overall style is minimalist and artistic.

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Part Seven

INIO ASANO









GOOD
VIBRATIONS.



BUT...

I
MIGHT
JUST
LOVE
YOU
DESPITE
THAT.

HOW
MUCH
ARE YOU
TO BE 15
MINUTES
LATE?





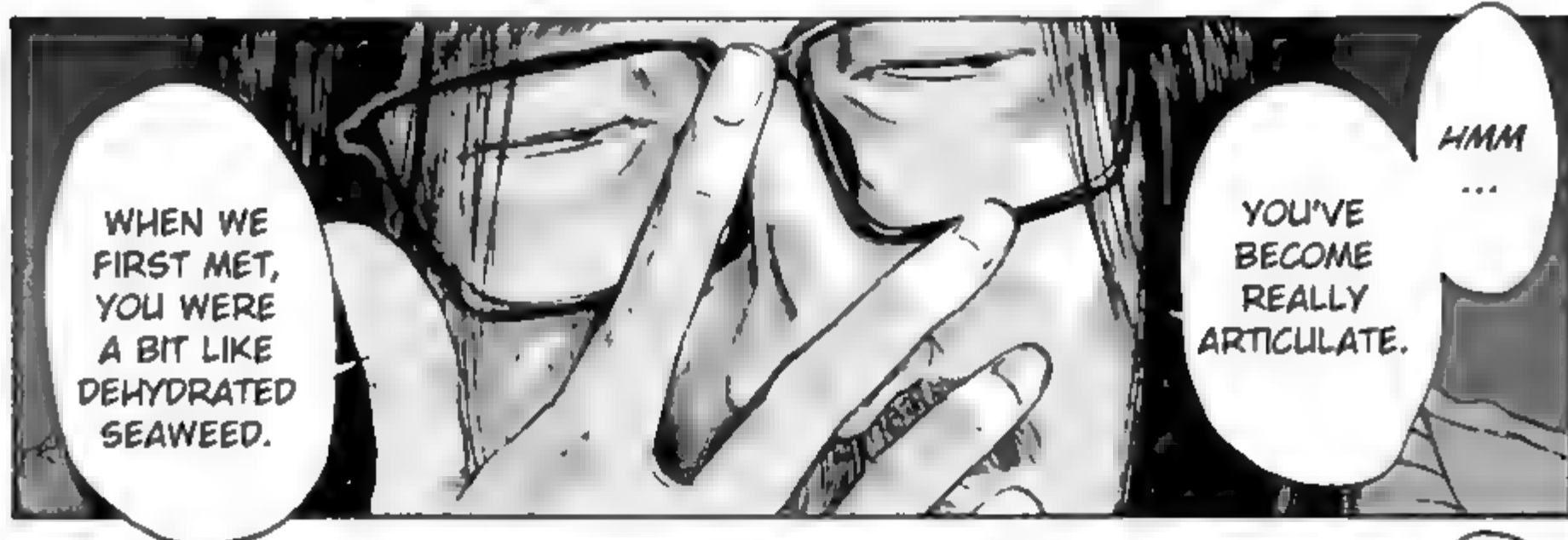


MY HOBBY IS FOLLOWING TWEEN IDOLS. BUT I NEVER CROSS THE LINE...

OH, NICE TO MEET YOU...

I GO BY "PAOPAO CHANNEL" HERE.

I HOPE WE GET ALONG AND HAVE FUN.



WHEN WE FIRST MET, YOU WERE A BIT LIKE DEHYDRATED SEAWEEED.

HMM ...

YOU'VE BECOME REALLY ARTICULATE.

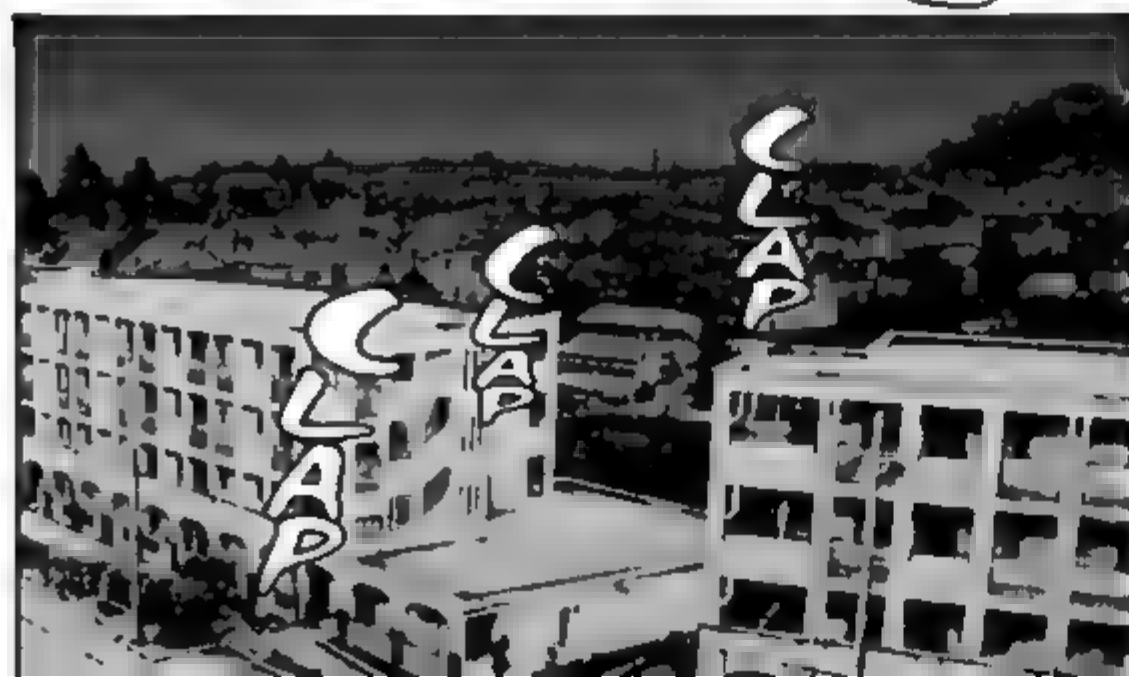


I APPLAUD YOU.



NO WAY, IT'S THROUGH MY OWN HARD WORK!

NEVER! DO YOU THINK I CHANGED BECAUSE OF YOU, PEGASUS LEADER?







WAIT FOR
MY ANNUAL
SUMMER
BARBECUE.

DID
YOU KNOW
THAT ALL
GIRLS CAN
DO A
SPECIAL
KIND OF
MAGIC?

MY
NAME IS
WHITE PIG,
AND I'M
A SALES
CLERK.



I WOULD
LOVE TO
DISCUSS
OOPARTS AND
CRYPTOID
MEGA-
ORGANISMS
WITH YOU.

I
WORK AS
A WEB
DESIGNER
AND ALSO
PUBLISH A
COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER.

I'M
CALLED
"IT'S
AWKWARD
WHEN YOU
ONLY
HAVE ONE
BATTERY
LEFT."



I'VE
BEEN
TO THE
NATIONAL
SWIMMING
CHAMPION-
SHIPS.

CONTRARY
TO
APPEAR-
ANCES, I'M
PRETTY
GOOD AT
ANYTHING
SPORTY.

I'M 26
YEARS
OLD AND
I WORK
PART-
TIME.

I'M
INFINITE
LOVE.



MY VOICE
MAY BE
ANNOYINGLY
ANIME, BUT
IT'S JUST
HOW I SPEAK
NATURALLY.
SORRY ABOUT
THAT.

I'M
BLUTT
HAM-
BURGER.

I'M
GOING TO
SCHOOL TO
BECOME
A VOICE-
OVER
ACTRESS.



POTTERY
IS MY
HOBBY. I
HAVE TWO
CHILDREN.

I'M SO
HAPPY TO
BECOME
FRIENDS WITH
SOMEONE AS
YOUNG AS
YOU.

I AM
GUARDIAN
ANGEL
GIBOBOGIGI.



EVERYONE
HERE IS
REALLY
NICE...

...SO
COME
JOIN US,
BABY.

I USED TO
BE IN A GANG
AND GOT INTO
LOADS OF
TROUBLE,
BUT I'M A
DELIVERYMAN
NOW AND I
DRIVE SUPER
CAREFULLY.

I'M
CONTRARY
TO...



...THE
PEGASUS
ENSEMBLE.



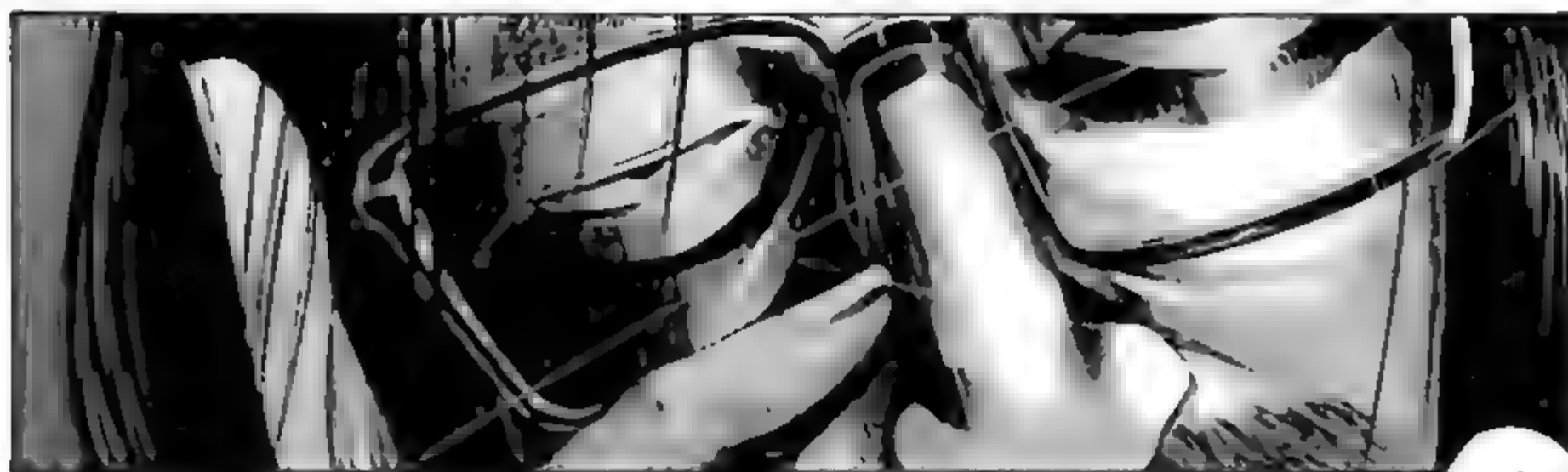


UM...

I'M
STARTING
COLLEGE IN
THE SPRING,
STUDYING TO
BECOME AN
ACCOUNTANT.

I-
I'M...

...YUMI
NUMATA.



I
BROKE
UP WITH
MY BOY-
FRIEND
THIS
WINTER
...



WHAT'S
THE POINT
OF LIVING IN
A USELESS
WORLD LIKE
THIS?

BUT...

...AND I'VE
JUST FELT
REALLY
UNSETTLED.



...MAYBE
IT'S ME.

MAYBE
THE
WORLD
ISN'T
USELESS
...

...AND
I HAD A
REVELA-
TION.

...ONE
NIGHT I
REALIZED I
WAS SUR-
ROUNDED
BY A WHITE
LIGHT...



...AND
"SOMEONE
LIKE THIS
COULD BE
THE GOD TO
GUIDE ME."

I
THOUGHT,
"MAYBE
THIS ISN'T
A COINCI-
DENCE"...

HIS
AURA, HIS
PRESENCE
...

THE
NEXT DAY,
PEGASUS
SPOKE TO
ME ON THE
STREET.



...
PERFORM
A SONG
FOR YOU.

WE
WILL
NOW...



ACTUALLY,
AS OF
TODAY,
YOU ARE
PRINCESS
PUSSY.

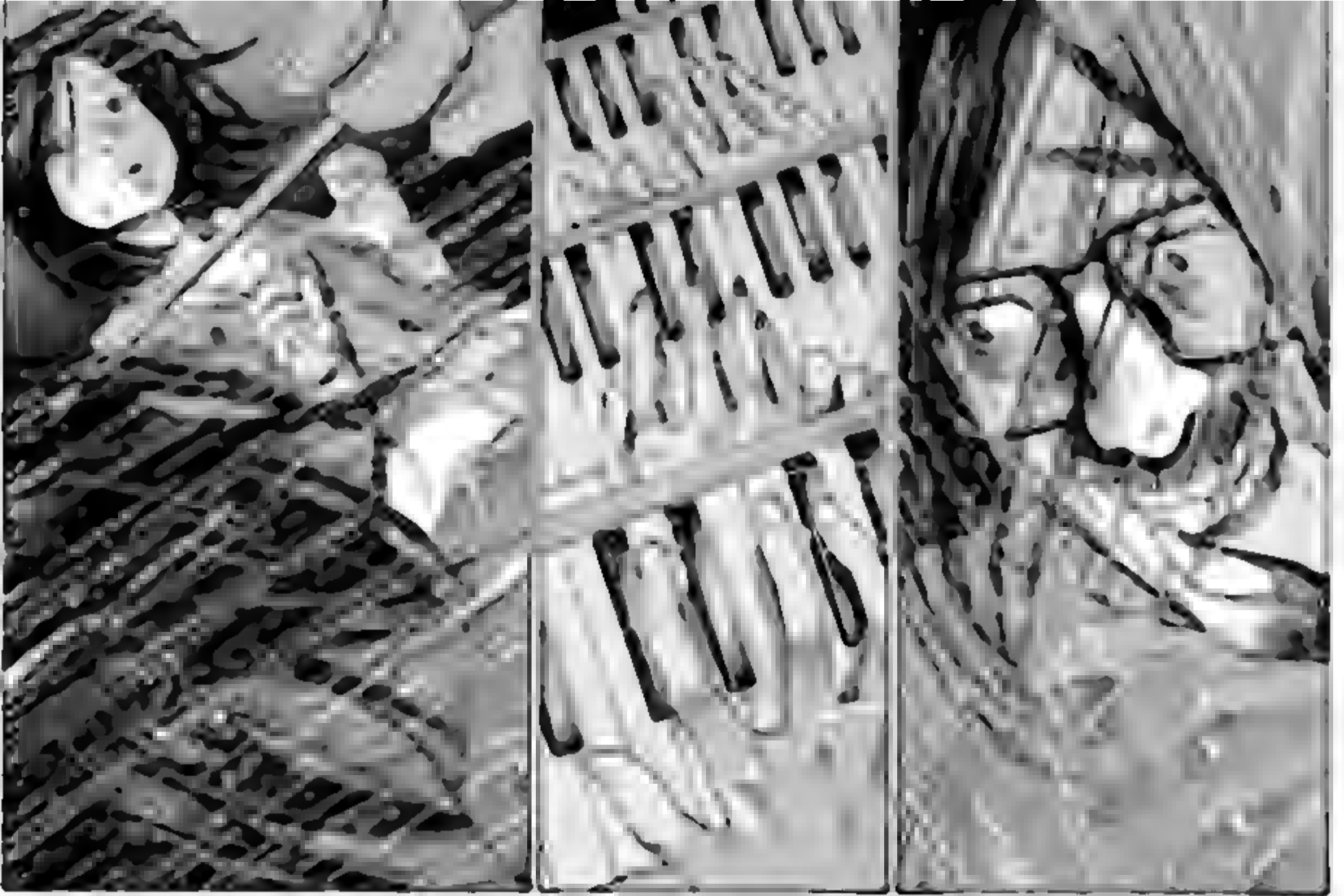
OKAY,
YUMI...



I'M NOT
STUPID
ENOUGH
TO WANT
SOMEONE
CALLING ME
A GOD.

STOP
IT.

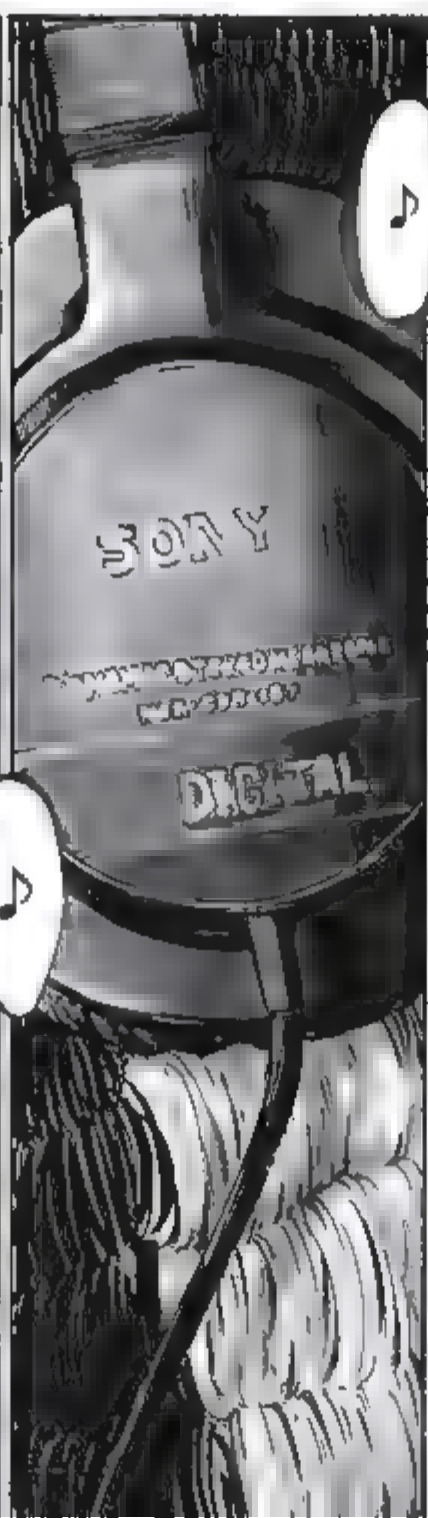




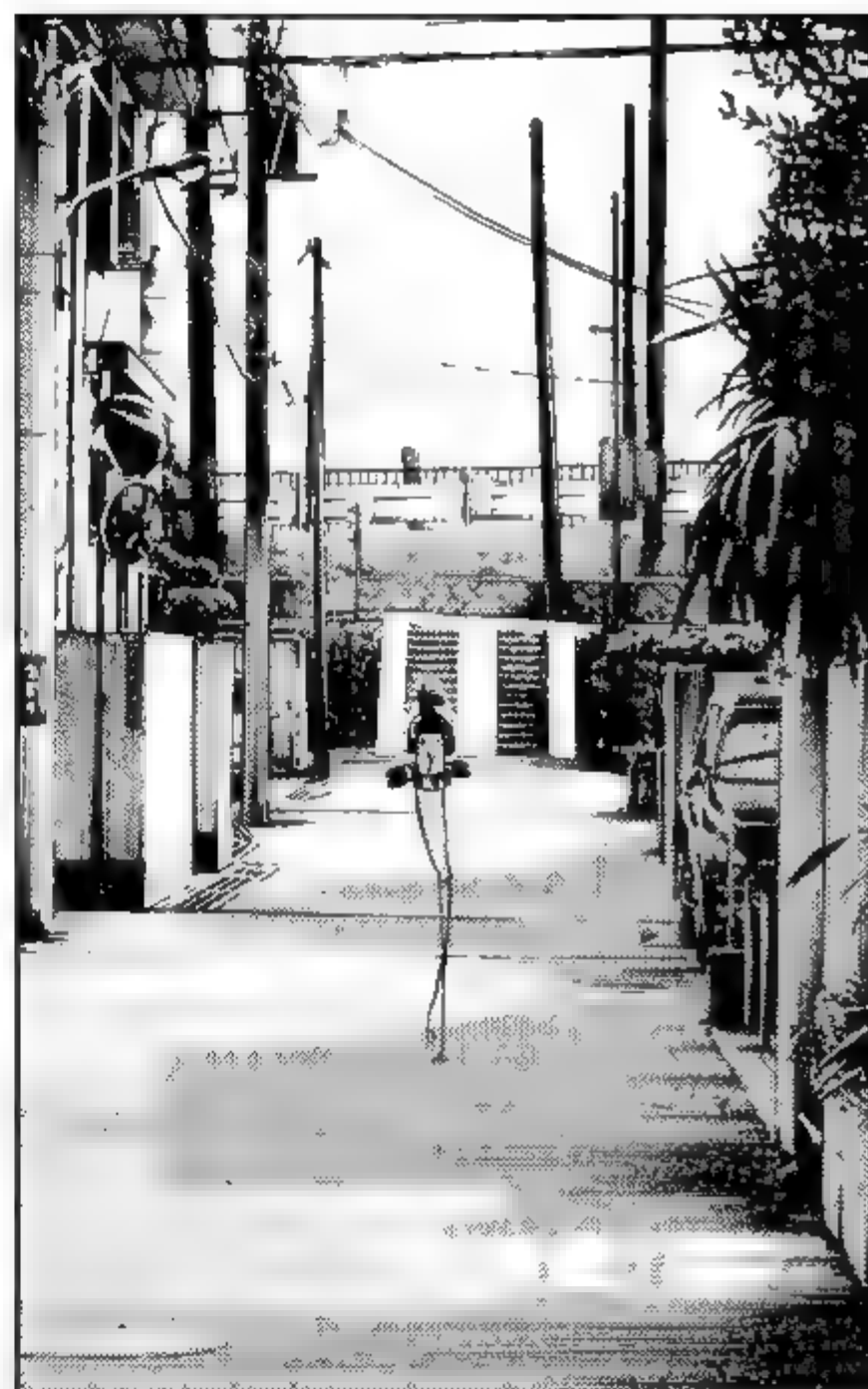


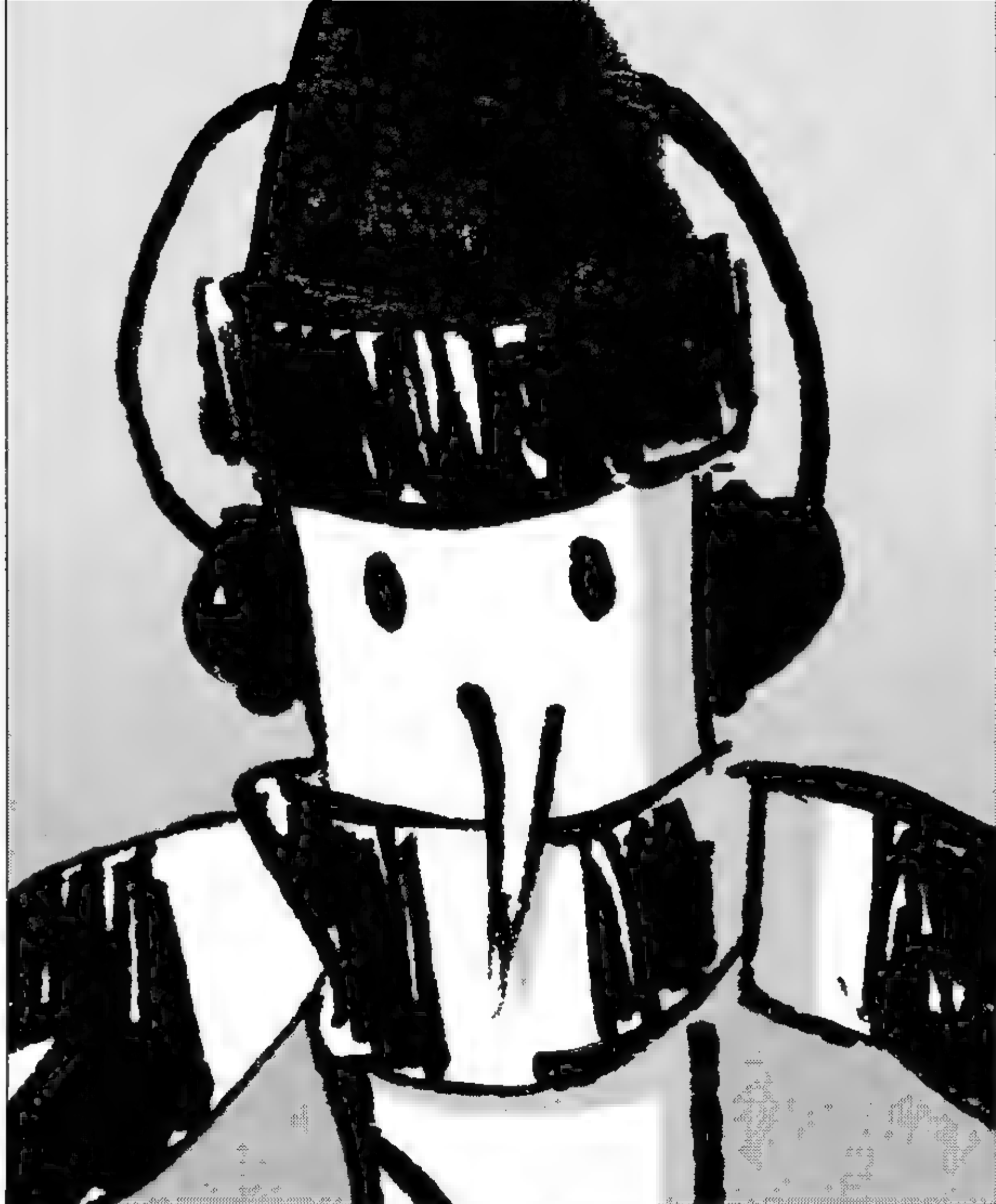












Punpun
was...



...really
unhappy
about going
to work.

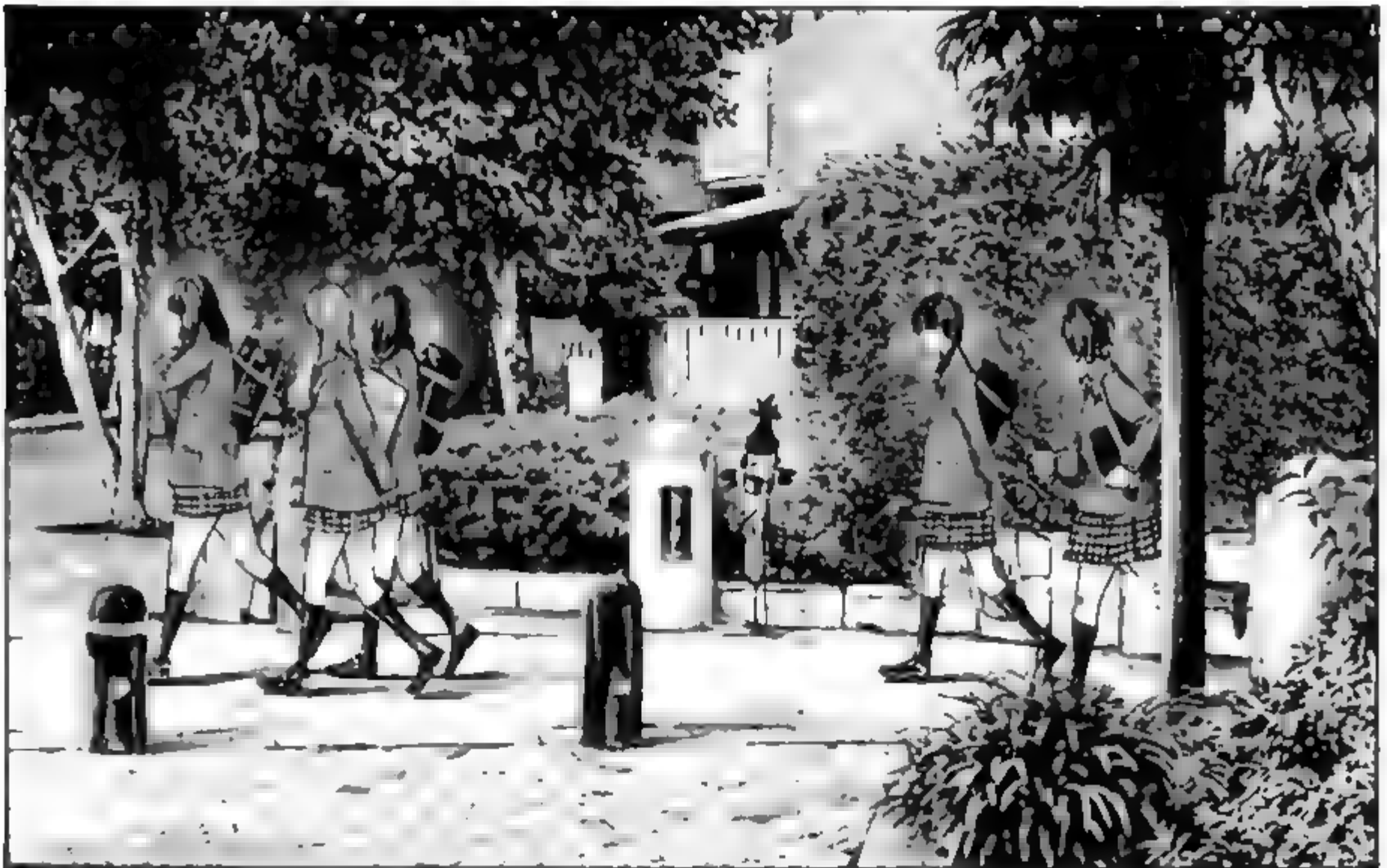


He just felt
overwhelmingly
sluggish.

There
was no
particular
reason
why.



If someone pressed him for a reason, as long as they were okay with frivolous answers, he could come up with ten, a hundred, a million responses like "I'm feeling exploited" or "my allergies are acting up."



... called people who said things like that "trash."

But he was pretty sure that society...



I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU
SINCE
GRADUA-
TION.

HOW'VE
YOU BEEN?
YOU LOOK
A LITTLE
PALE.
ARE YOU
OKAY?

YOU
JIKUJION!

WHOOOOA,
ONOTTI!

YOU
ASSHOLE,
YOU SON
OF A
BITCH!



WHY
DON'T YOU
FORGO THE
"NO MASTUR-
BATION" RULE
AND TURN
OFF ENLIGHT-
ENMENT FOR
A NIGHT?

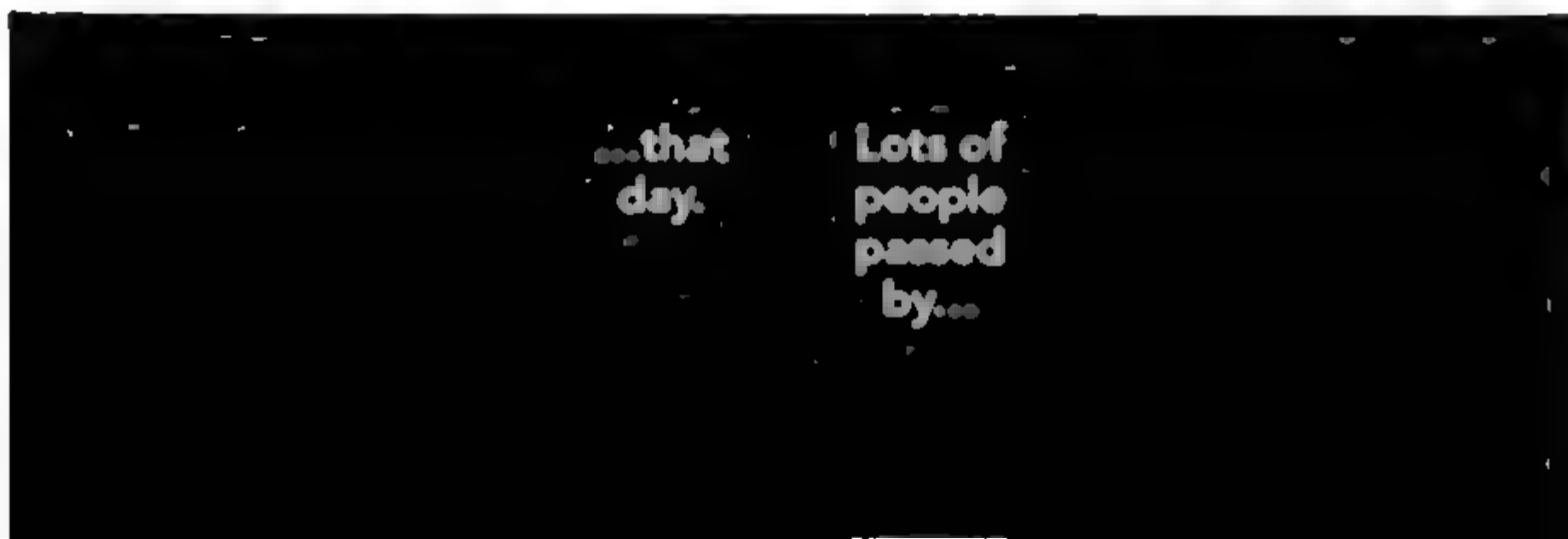
WELL,
THAT'S
THE IDEAL
I STRIVE
FOR
EVERY
DAY.

EVER
SINCE I
GOT INTO
COLLEGE,
MY DICK
HASN'T HAD
A CHANCE
TO DRY
OFF...

HUH?
YOU'RE
TAKING
WALKS
EVERY
DAY?

SINCE YOU
OWE ME FOR
GETTING YOU THIS
PART-TIME JOB,
LET'S FIND SOME
GIRLS AND MAKE
THEM SCREAM.

YOU'RE
LIKE A
GRANDPA,
MAN.





...or some depressed by irrevocable guilt.

...some with serious illnesses...

...some with major problems at home...

Among the pedestrians passing by were bound to be...



For now, best to play the fool.

No, no, don't think anymore.

...there Punpun was, feeling unsettled for no reason.

And yet...

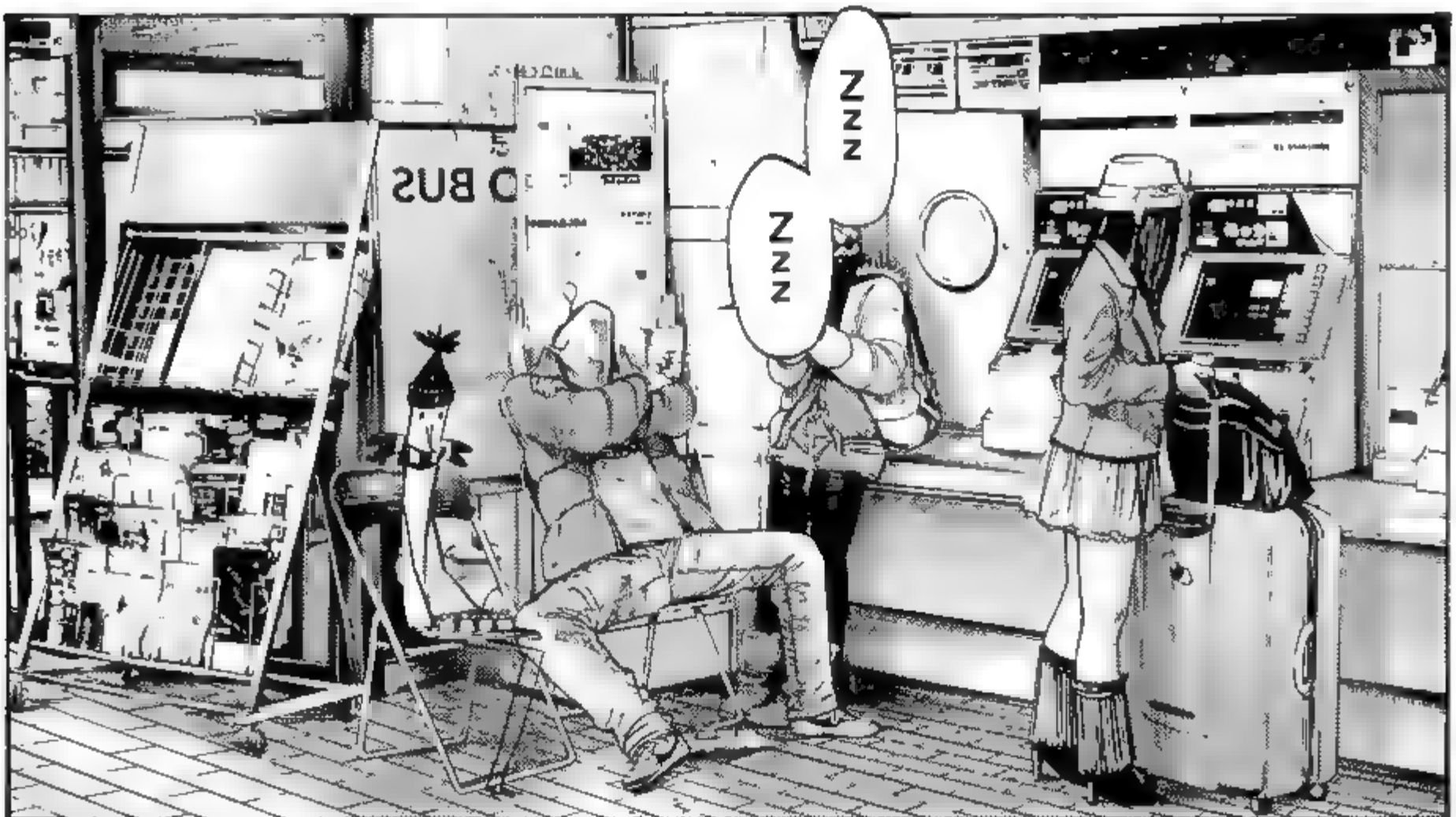


Well, of course not. They were all confidently moving forward.

No one would help him. No one would meet his gaze.

Who was he looking for?

For some reason, Punpun was following them as they went back and forth, as if he was clinging to something.



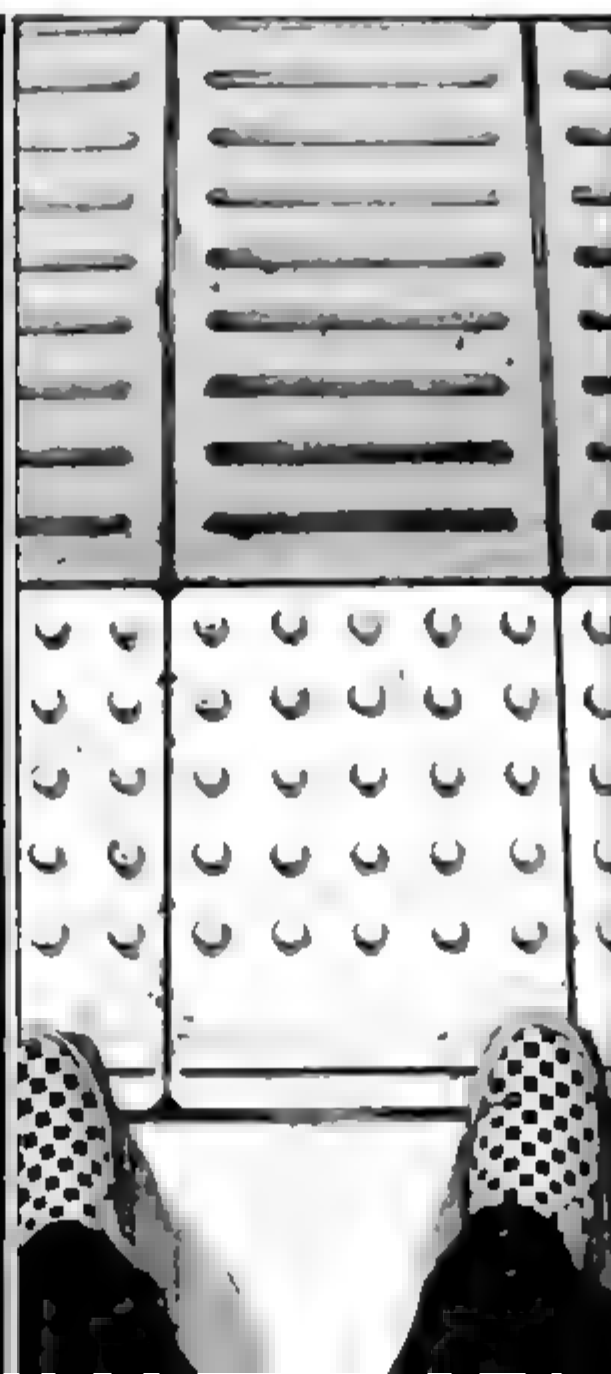
...Punpun was still hypersensitive to the north wind.

Even though a breath of spring was starting to seep into the breeze...



That
about
summed
him up.

But
Punpun
couldn't
even
cross
the
white
line.



That's
what he
thought.

All it
would
take
was a
step or
two...



Re-
petitive
tasks
seemed
to
agree
with
him.

But
there
was one
thing
Punpun
could
take
away
from
the day.



That's
what
Punpun
thought.

He might
be able to
go a little
harder
tomorrow.

He felt
a little
better
now.




...was a
secret
from
everyone.

...for the
last three
days...

The fact that
Punpun had
thought he
could maybe
go harder
tomorrow...



A black and white photograph showing a close-up of a person's hand reaching out to catch a small, dark object falling from above. The background is a textured, light-colored surface.

THE
DOORS
ARE
CLOSING.

A black and white photograph showing a close-up of a person's hand reaching out to catch a small, dark object falling from above. The background is a textured, light-colored surface.

DON'T
TRY TO
SHOVE
ONTO THE
TRAIN.







It's
Aiko.



It's
Aikō!



It's It's It's
Aiko! Aiko! Aiko!

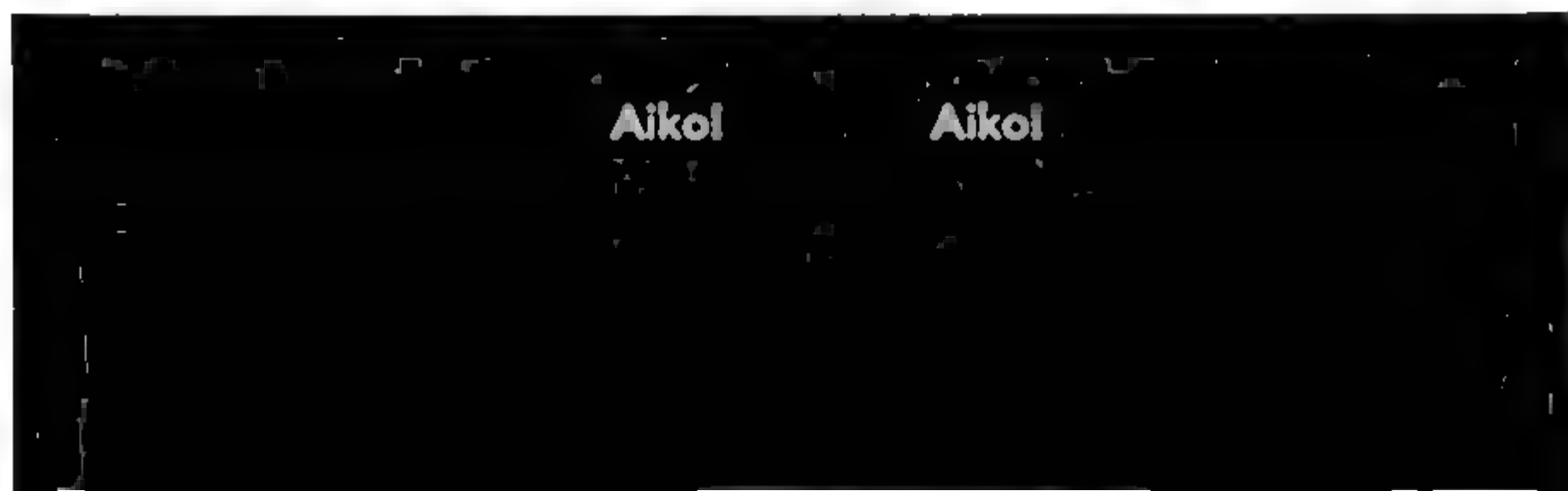








Aikol



Aikol

Aikol

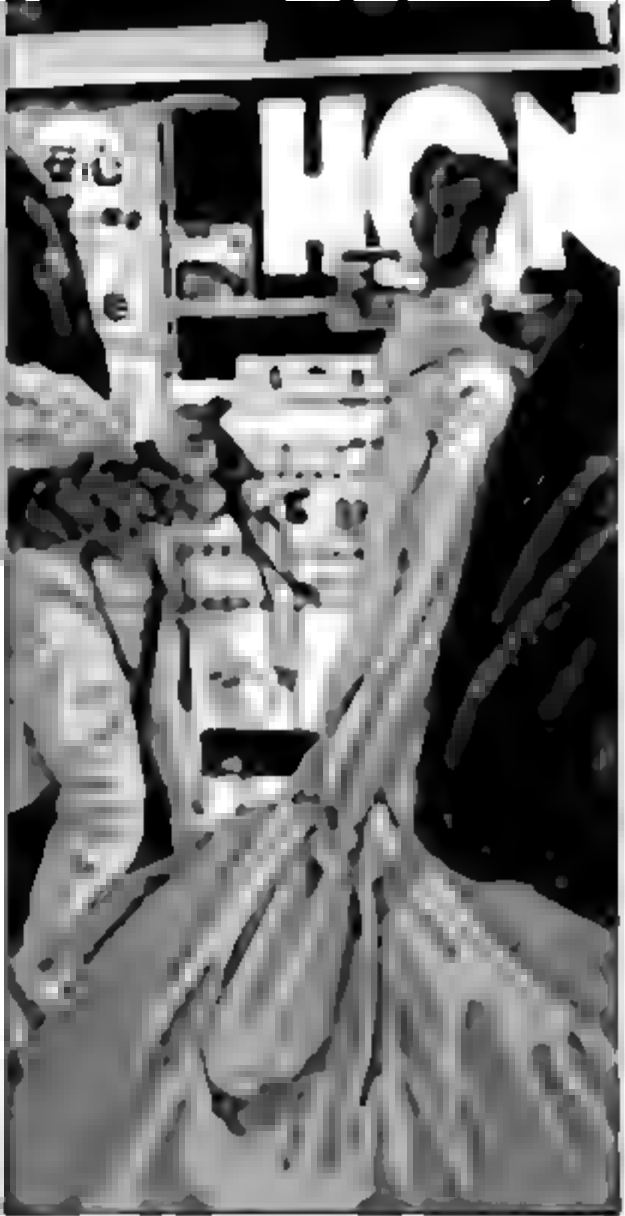






TAXES, USE A SAFE AND SIMPLE DIRECT TRANSFER.
SAVINGS AND TAX ASSOCIATION





He
couldn't...



...find
Aiko.



...one
thing
was now
clear to
him.

But...

Aiko
wasn't just a
memory at
the bottom
of his mind.

Pretty
obvious.

...just
like he
had.

...she
had spent
her time
existing
some-
where...

For the
past
several
years...



FOR RENT: STUDIO APARTMENT

SHISHIDO HEIGHTS

RENT/MONTH 1 MONTH SECURITY DEPOSIT

\$225 UTILITIES \$10

6 MINUTES FROM TRAIN STATION.

- SURFACE AREA 180FT²
- BUILDING 2 STORY WOODEN
- YEAR BUILT 1980
- LEASE PERIOD 2 YEARS
- INSURANCE NECESSARY (\$100 /2 YEARS)

土地・建物 **SHISHIDO REAL ESTATE** TEL: 03-3111-1111 FAX: 03-3111-1112

2ND FLOOR CORNER ROOM!

(# 201)

FOR RENT: STUDIO APARTMENT **QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD!**

Aiko...



...and live
somewhere
in town.

(unlike
someone
else
Punpun
knew)

...must be a
proper grown-
up now...



...in the
last few
years?

What
had he
done...

FOR RENT: STUDIO APARTMENT

SHISHIDO HEIGHTS

RENT/MONTH 1 MONTH SECURITY DEPOSIT

\$225 UTILITIES \$10

6 MINUTES FROM TRAIN STATION.

- SURFACE AREA 180FT²
- BUILDING 2 STORY WOODEN
- YEAR BUILT 1980
- LEASE PERIOD 2 YEARS
- NSURANCE NECESSARY (\$100 /2 YEARS)

2ND FLOOR CORNER ROOM!

(# 201)

土地・建物
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SHISHIDO REAL ESTATE

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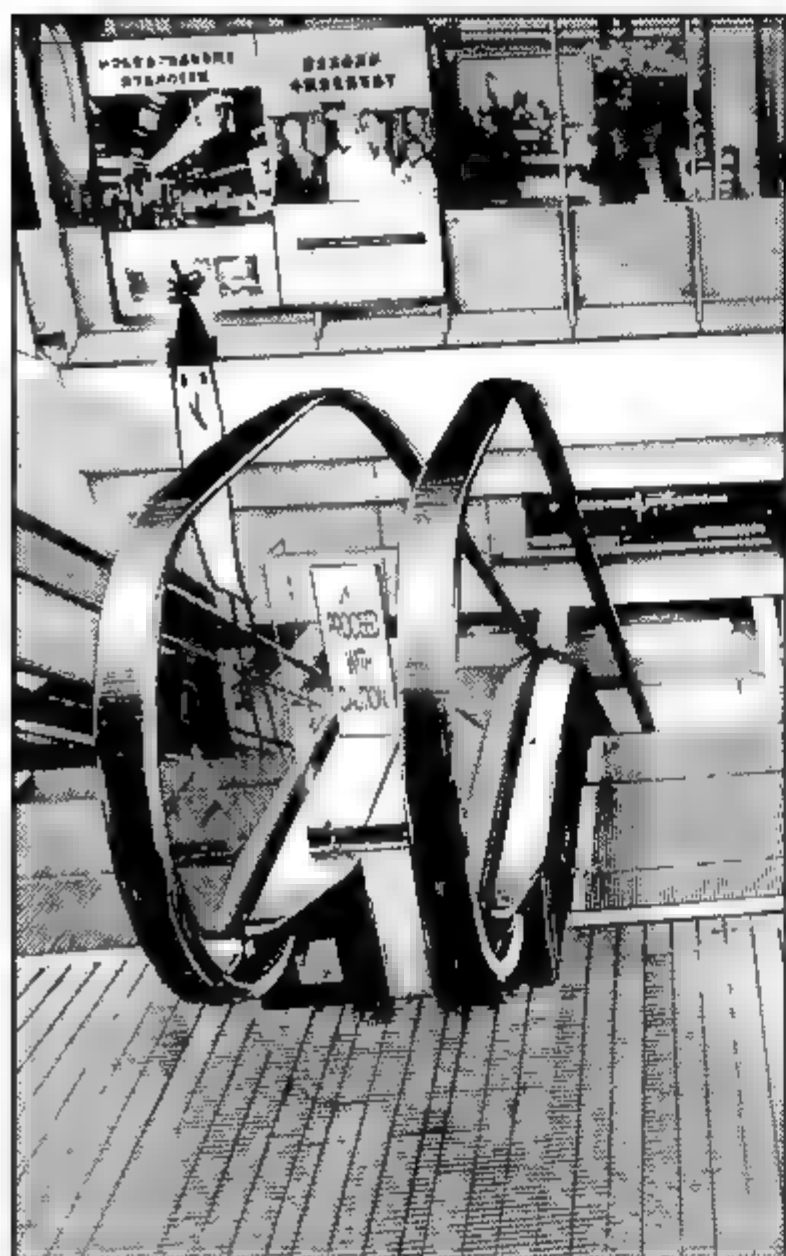
FAX: 03-3441-1112

...so what
was he so
afraid of?

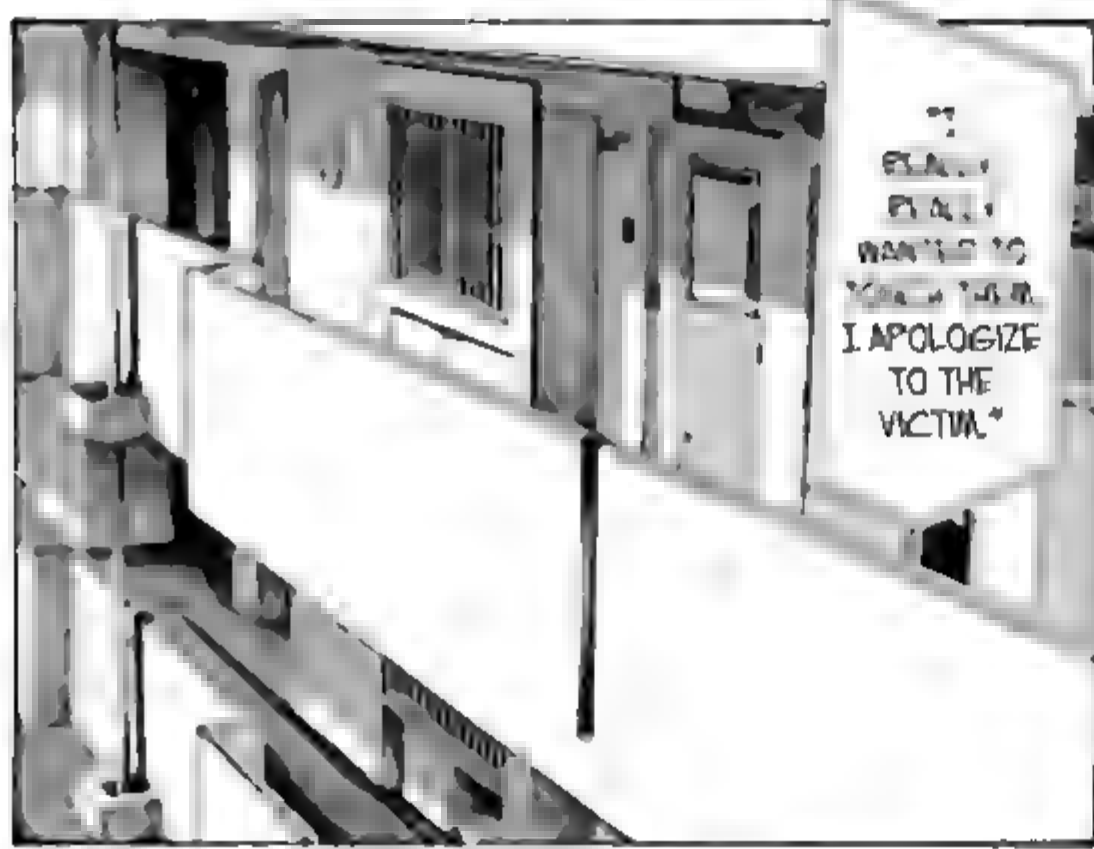
Nothing
would
happen
if he just
waited
around...

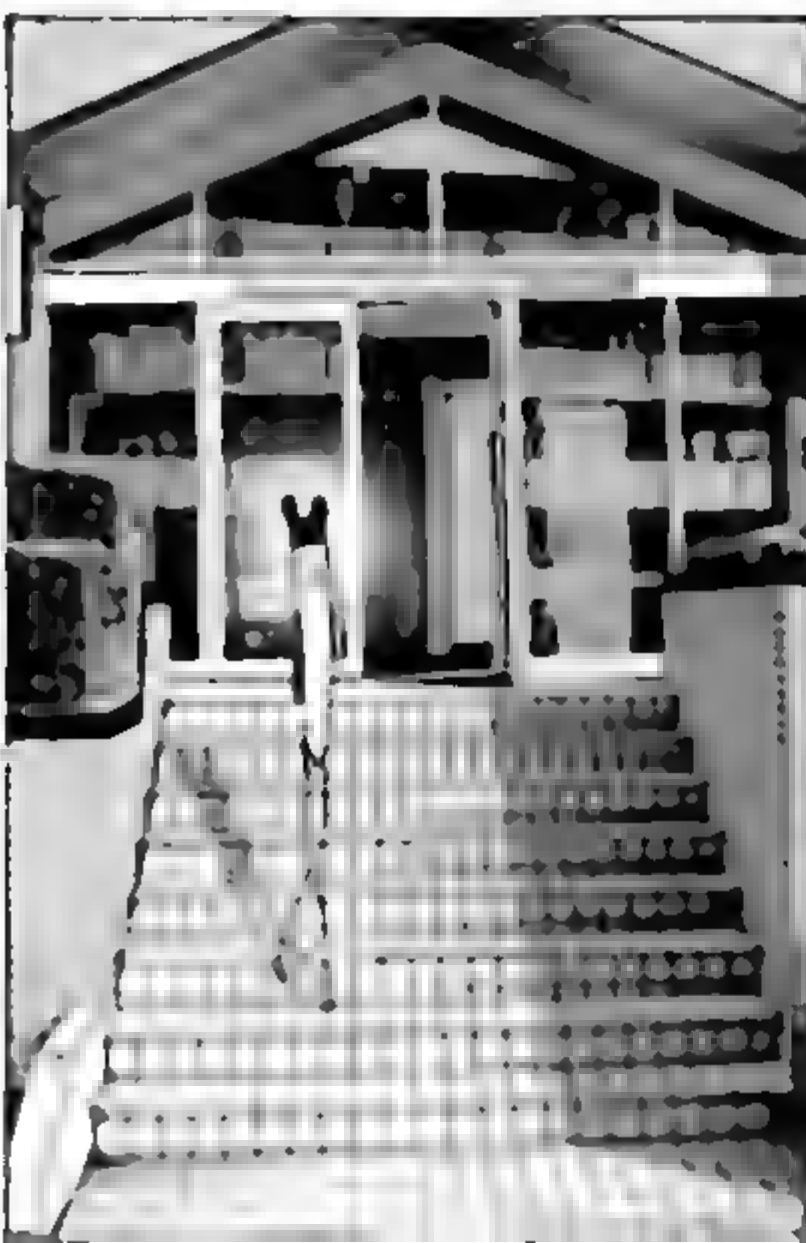
He
didn't
have
anything
to lose.



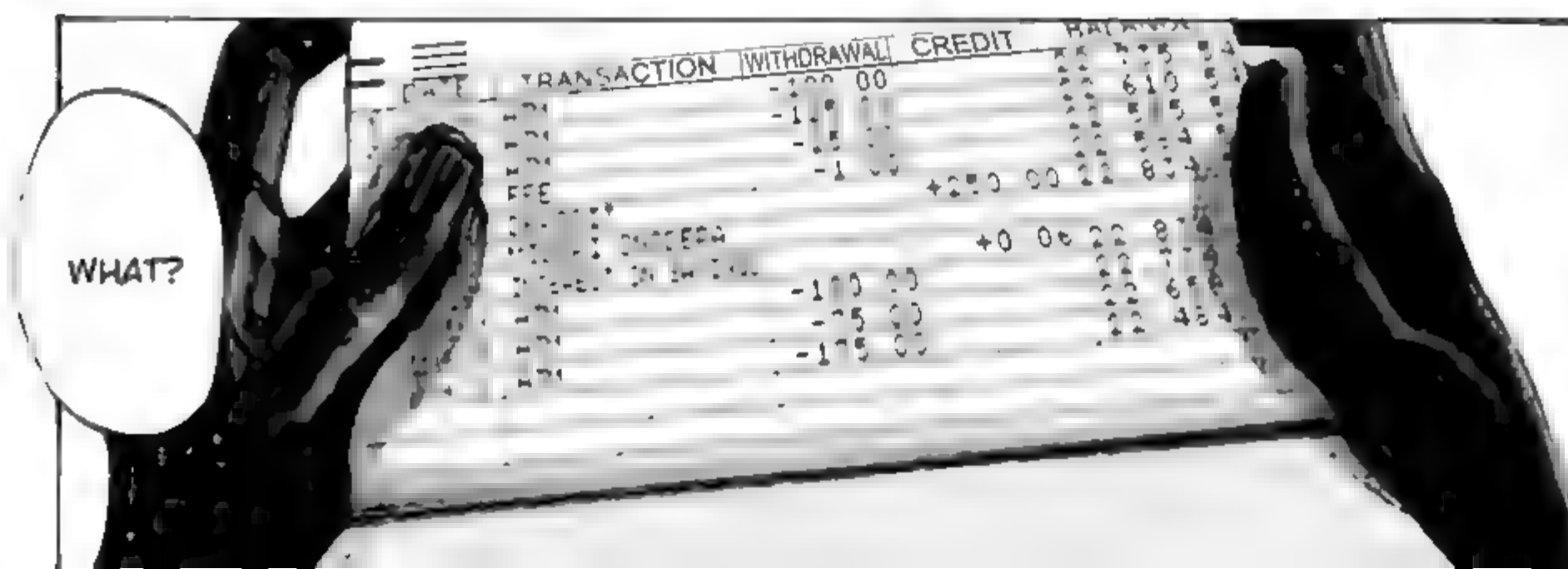


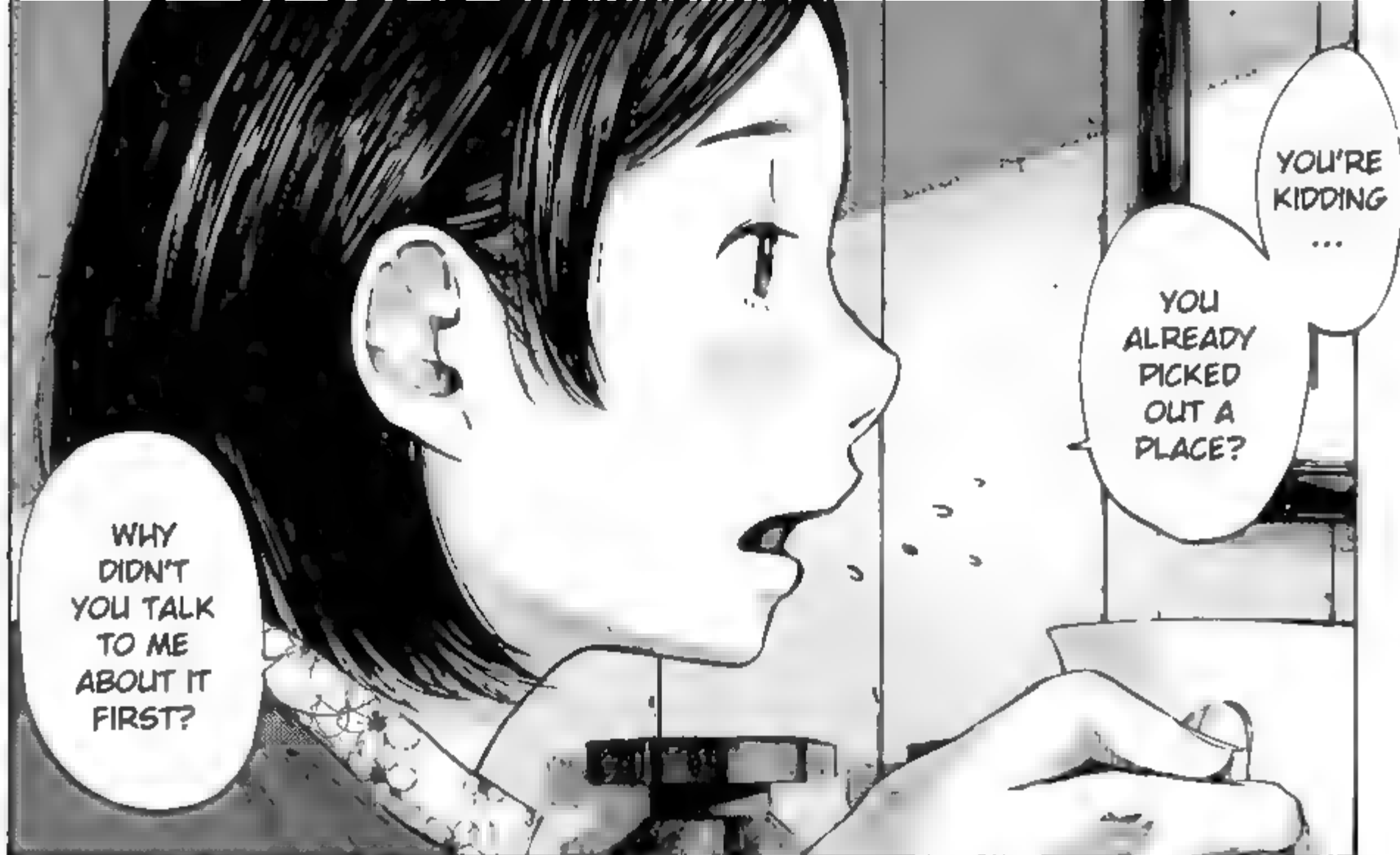


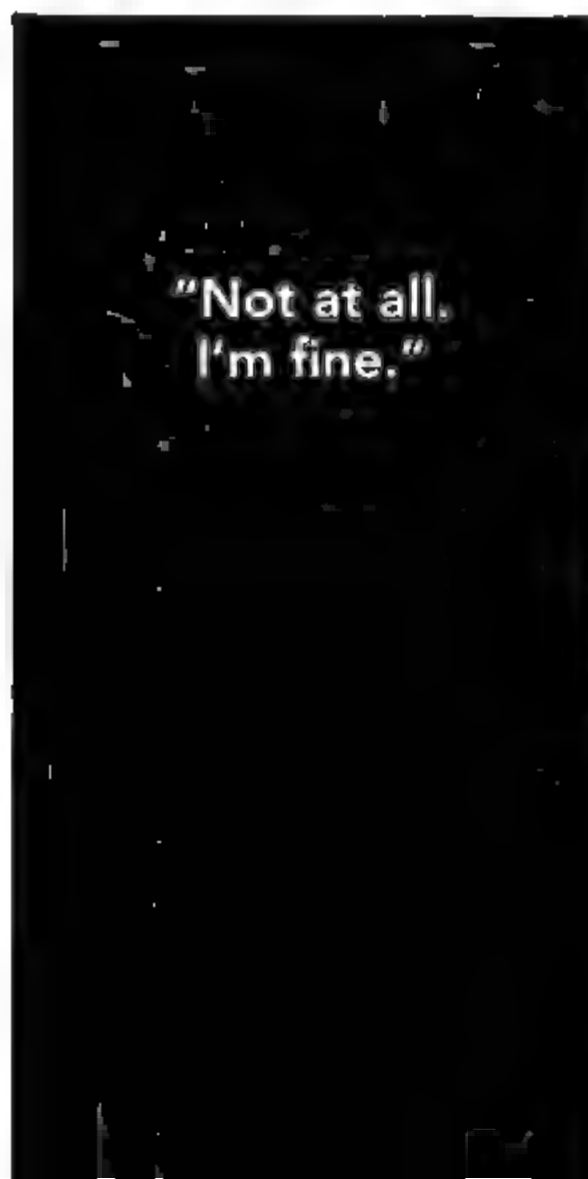
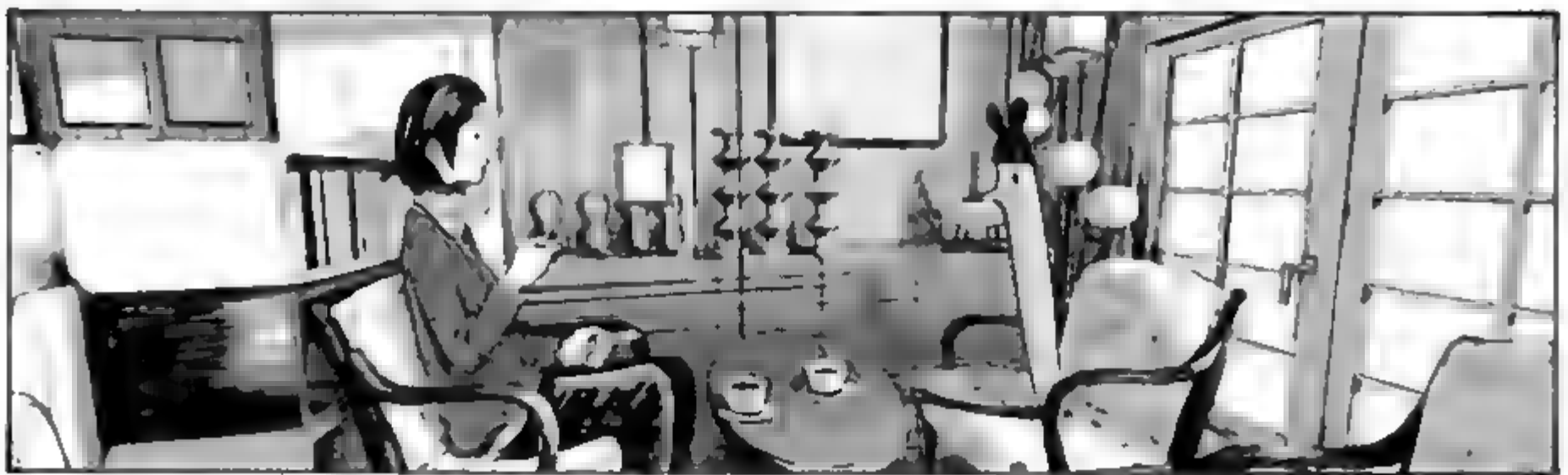
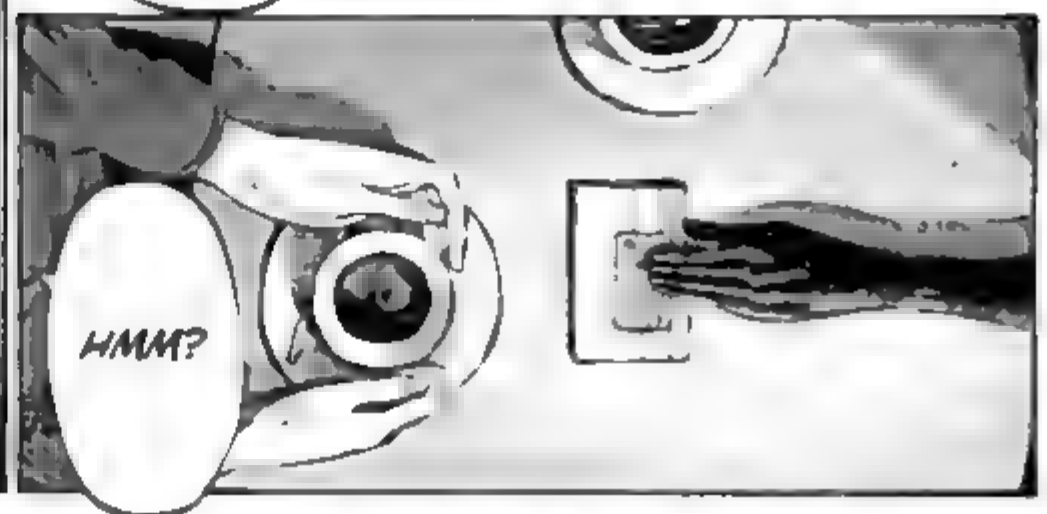




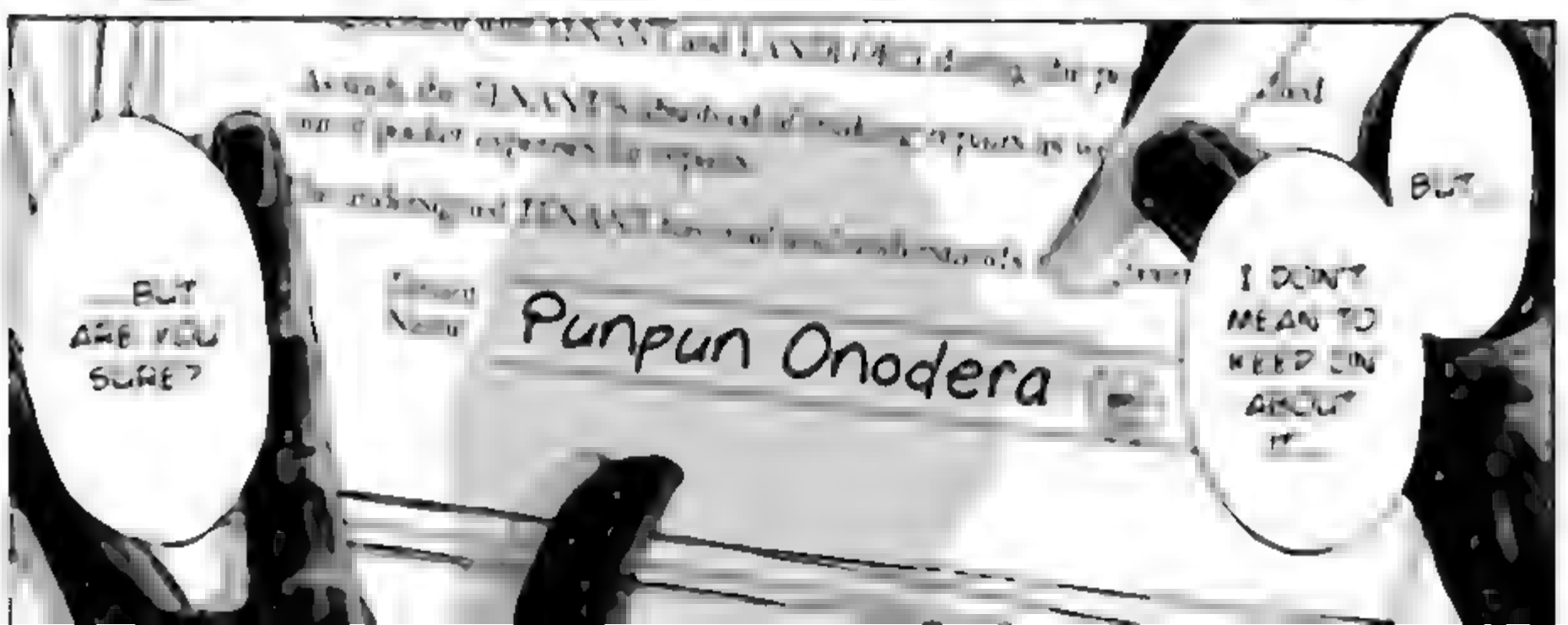
THE
WHOLE
COUNTRY
WILL
CONTINUE
TO
ENJOY
THE
PROGRAM







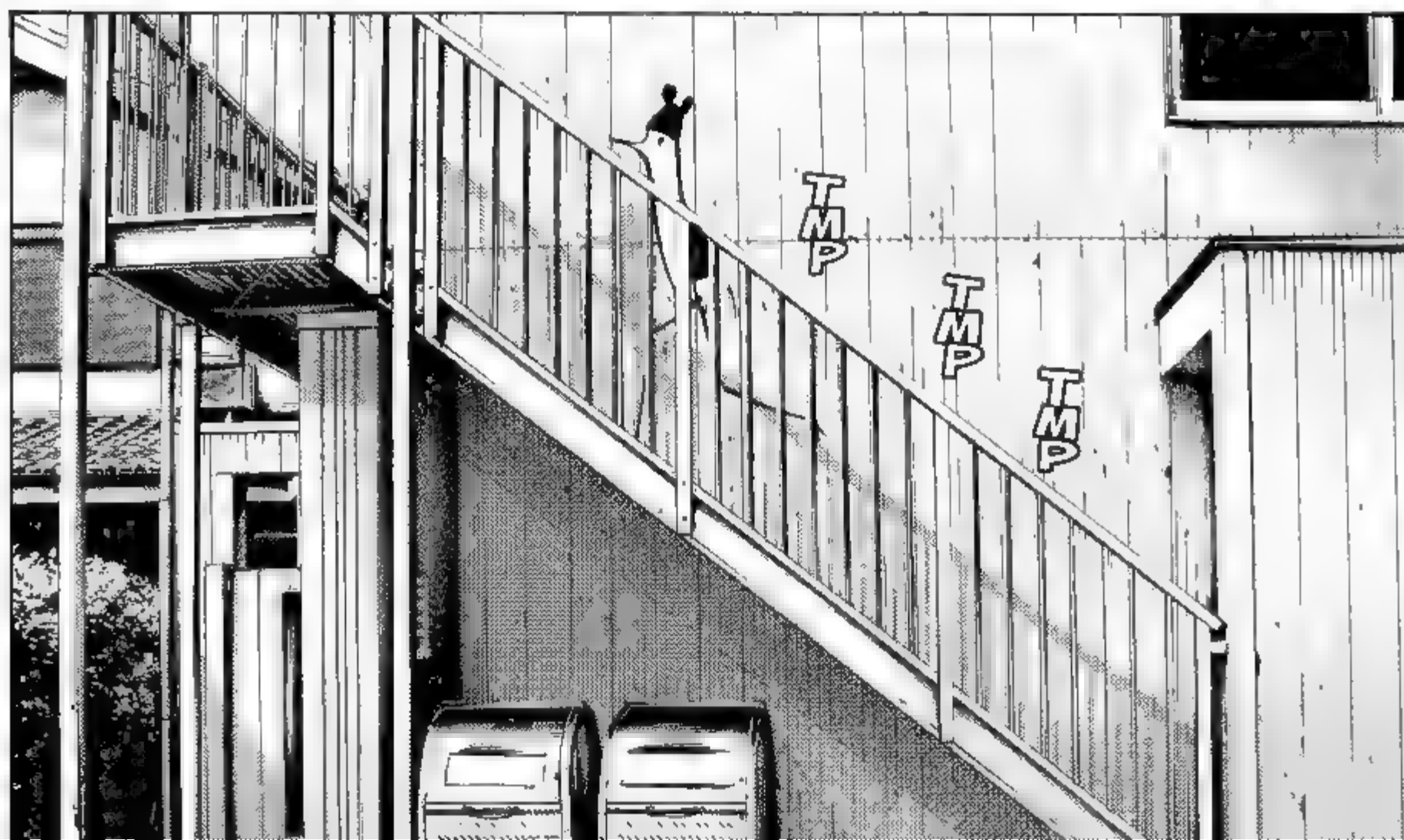






It was such a simple thing, but it made him feel a little more grown-up.

That was the first time Punpun had signed a contract.



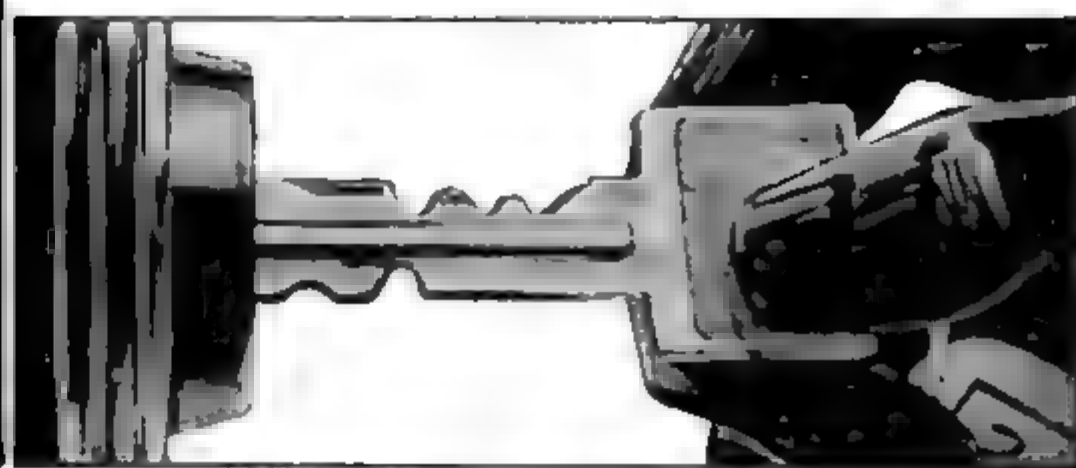
He'd
heard
it all
before.

Newbie,
creepy,
overly
sensitive
loser...

He
wouldn't
even
care if
someone
called him
names
now.

...but
Punpun
had never
thought
that he
could
be so
proactive.

His
motives
were
suspect...

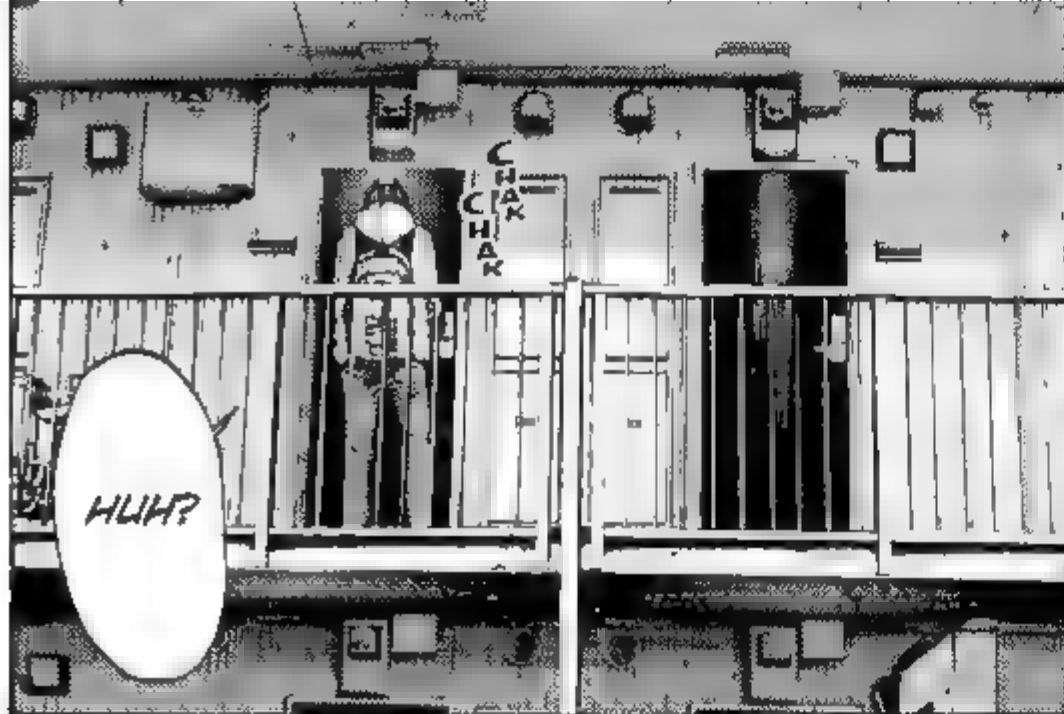


...with
a little
key.

...opened
quickly
and
easily...

The flimsy
door to the
cheap studio
apartment...





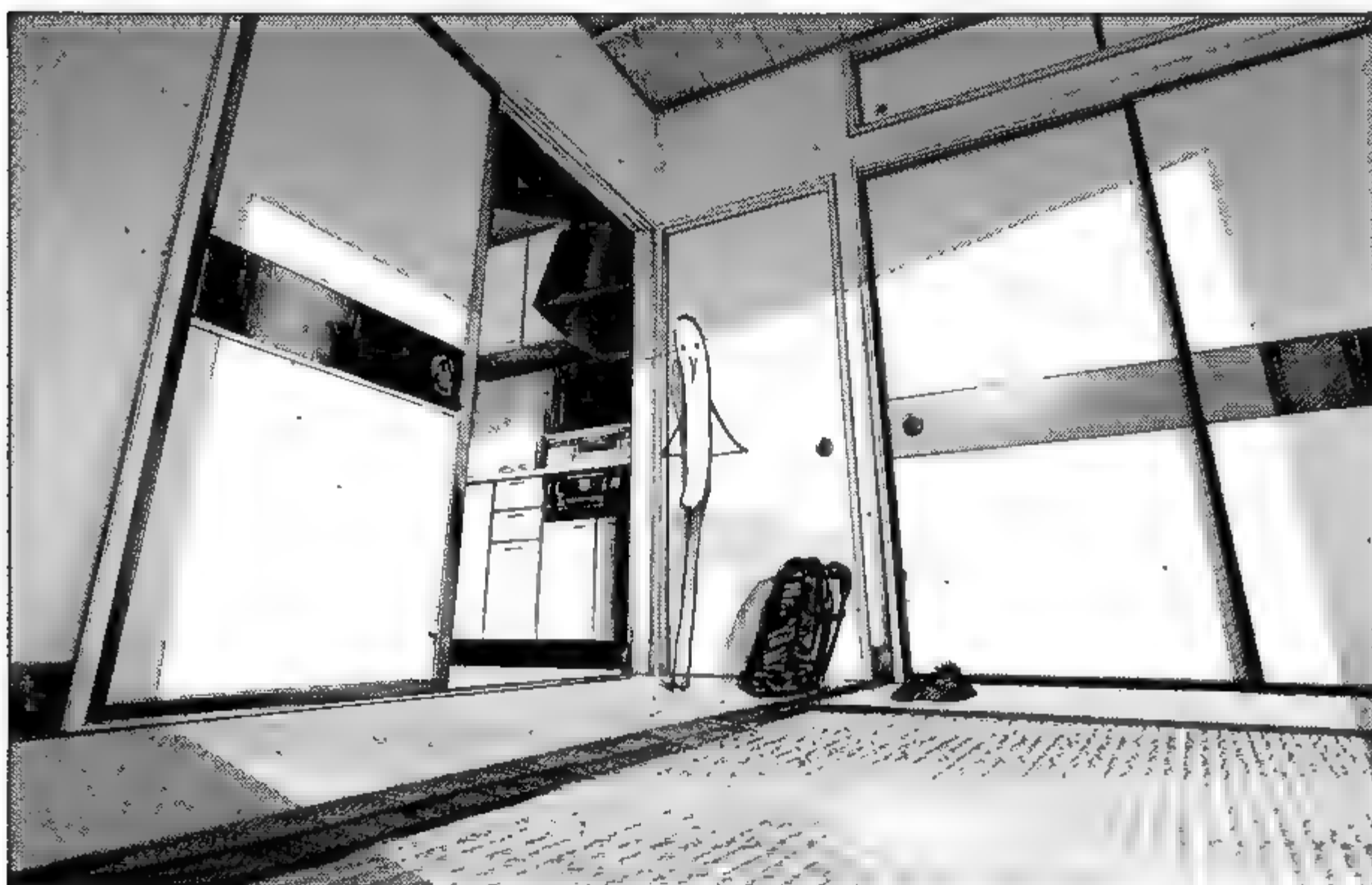
...was
to share
with
Aiko.

This
apartment...

But that
wasn't
a big
problem.

...he could
easily picture
himself being
incapable
of doing
anything
about it.

But
even if
Punpun
could
find
Aiko...

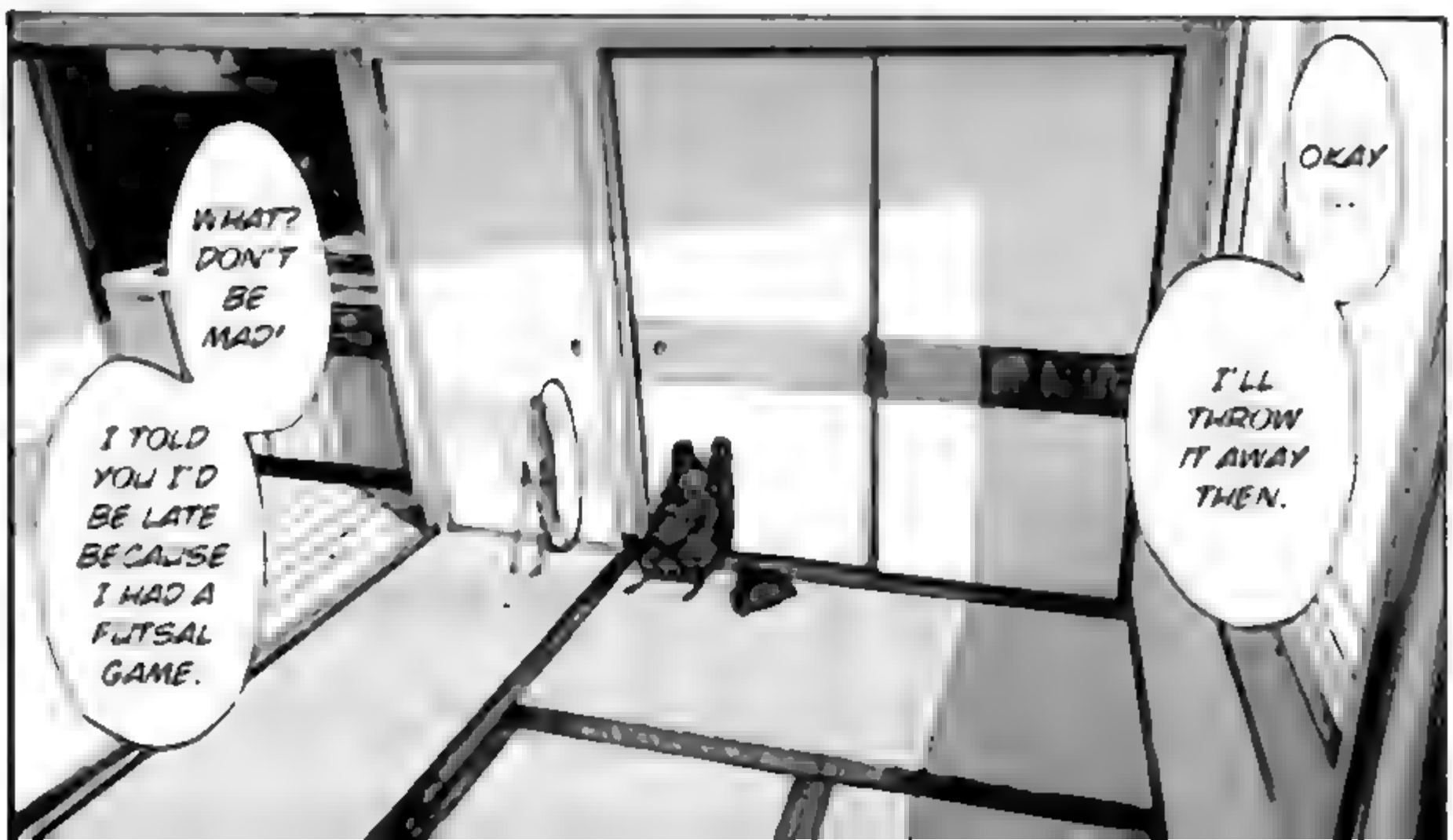
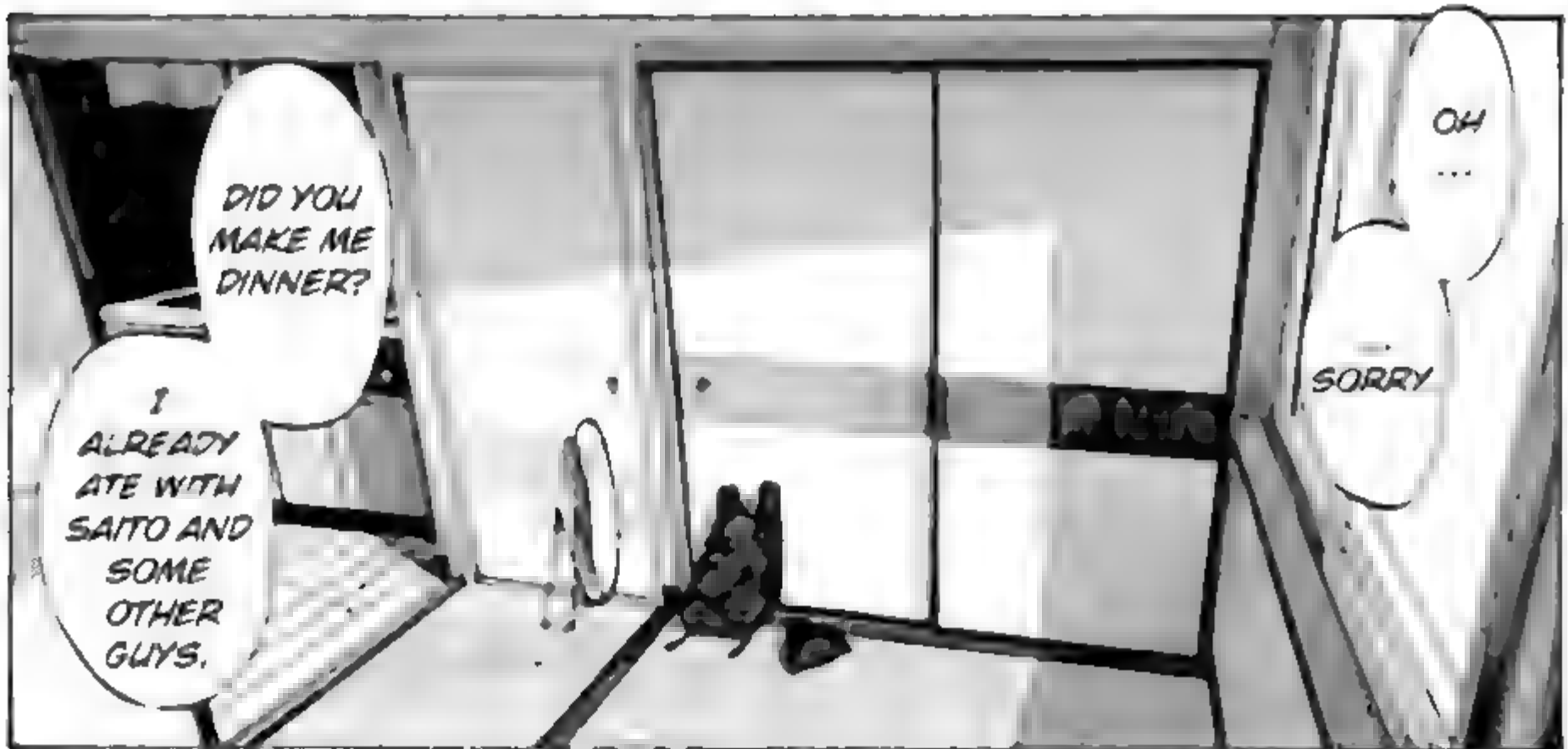


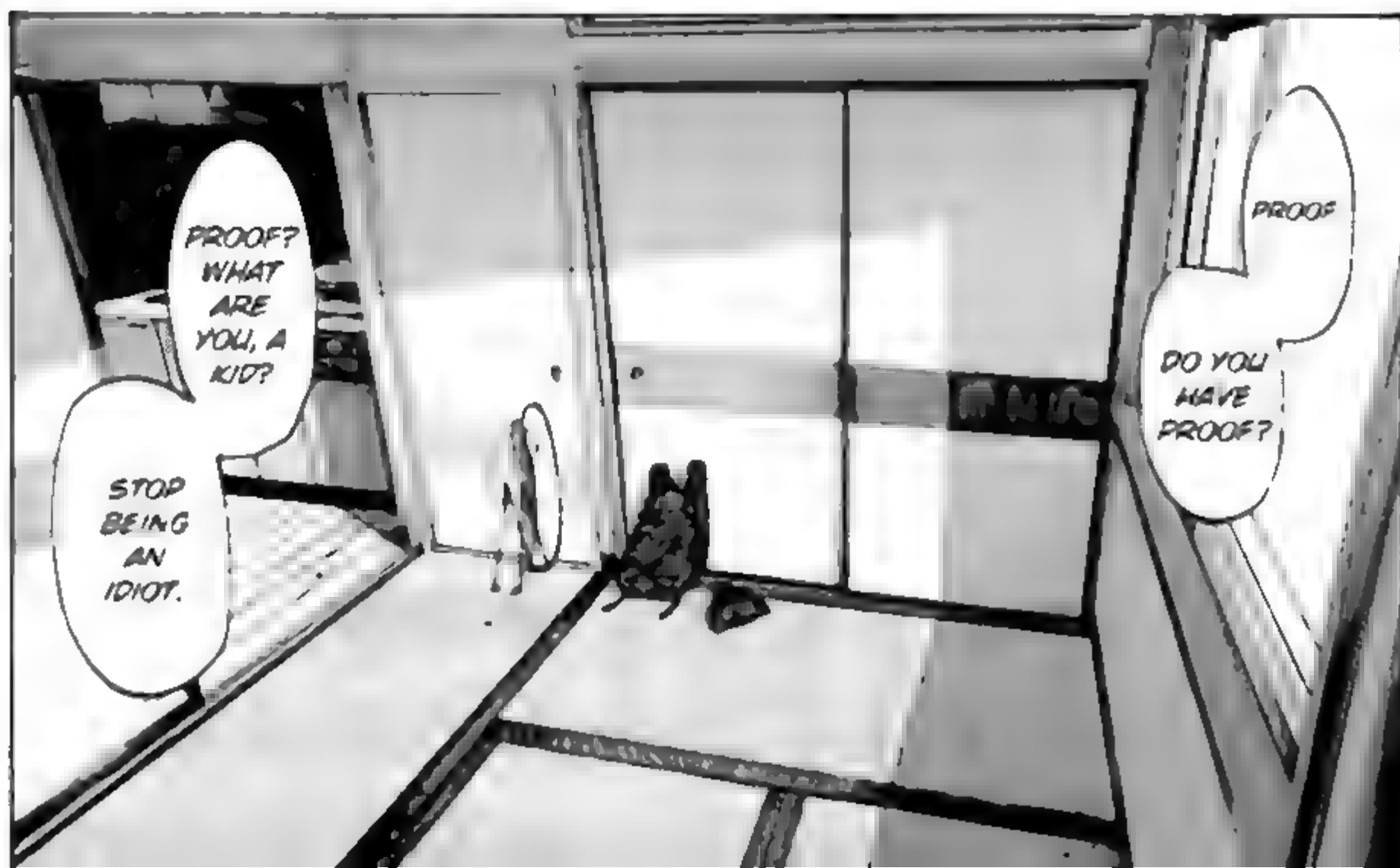
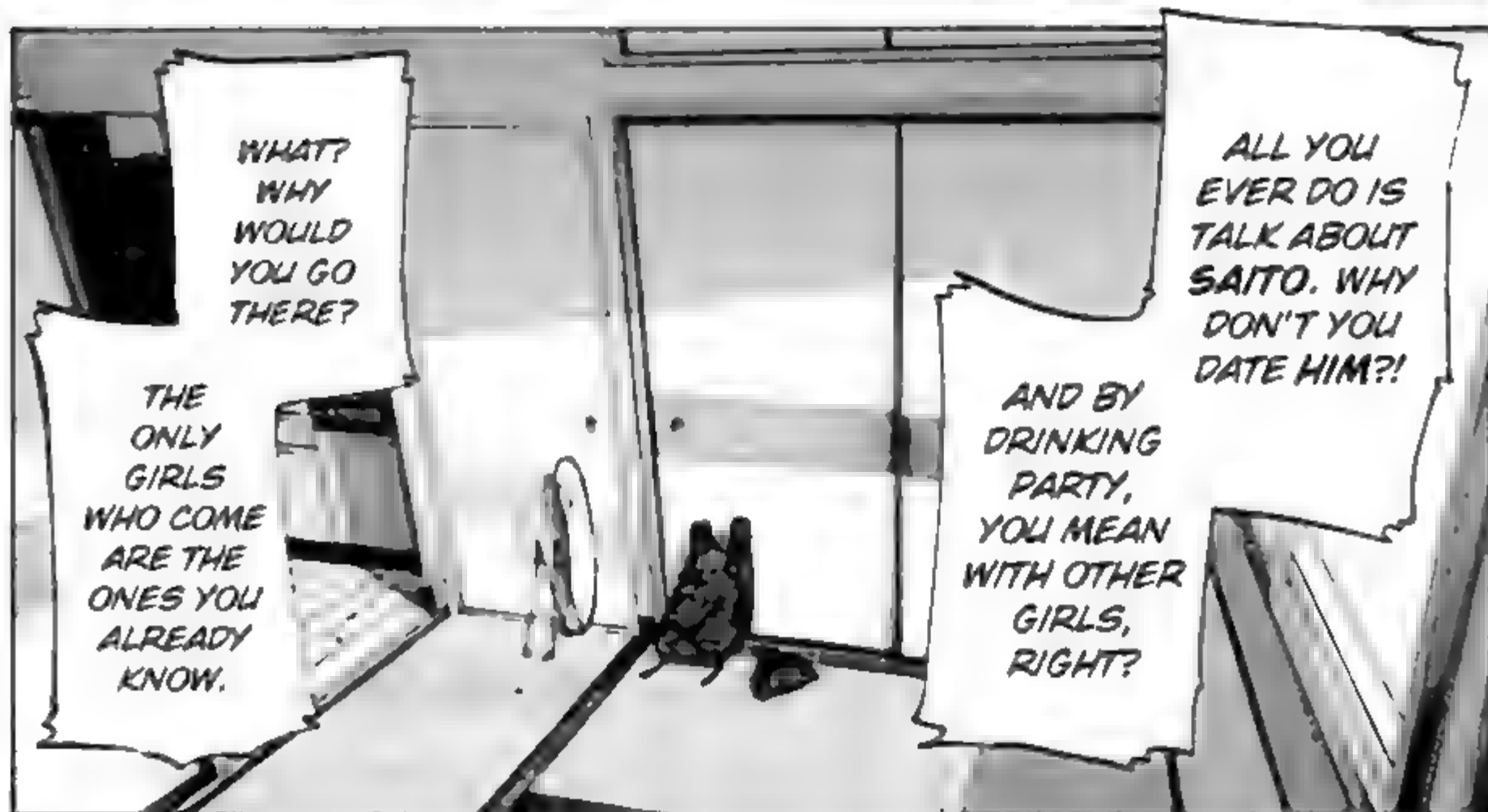
WHOA!

But he
was just
going to
have to.

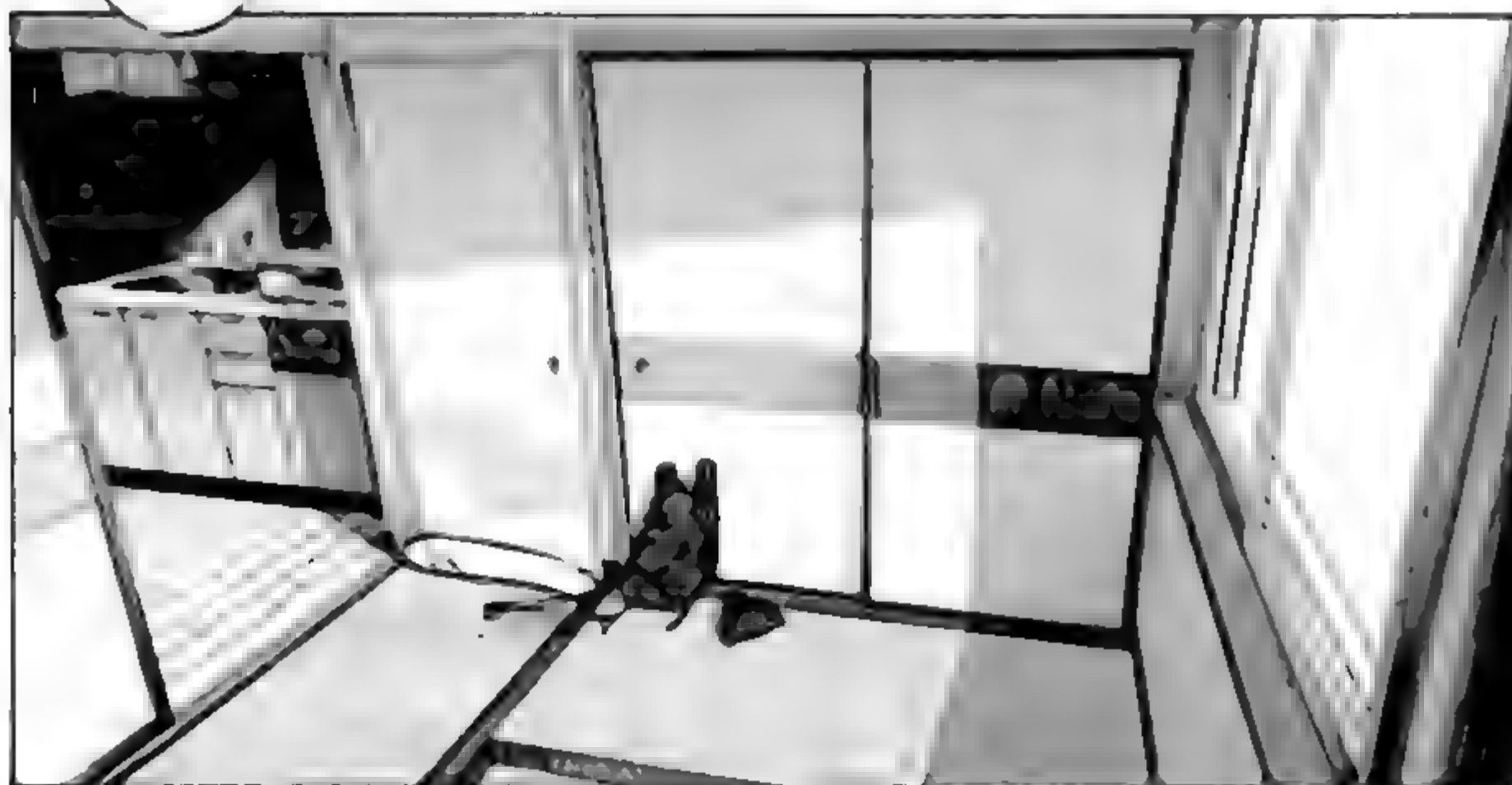
...couldn't
find the
right
words.

He...



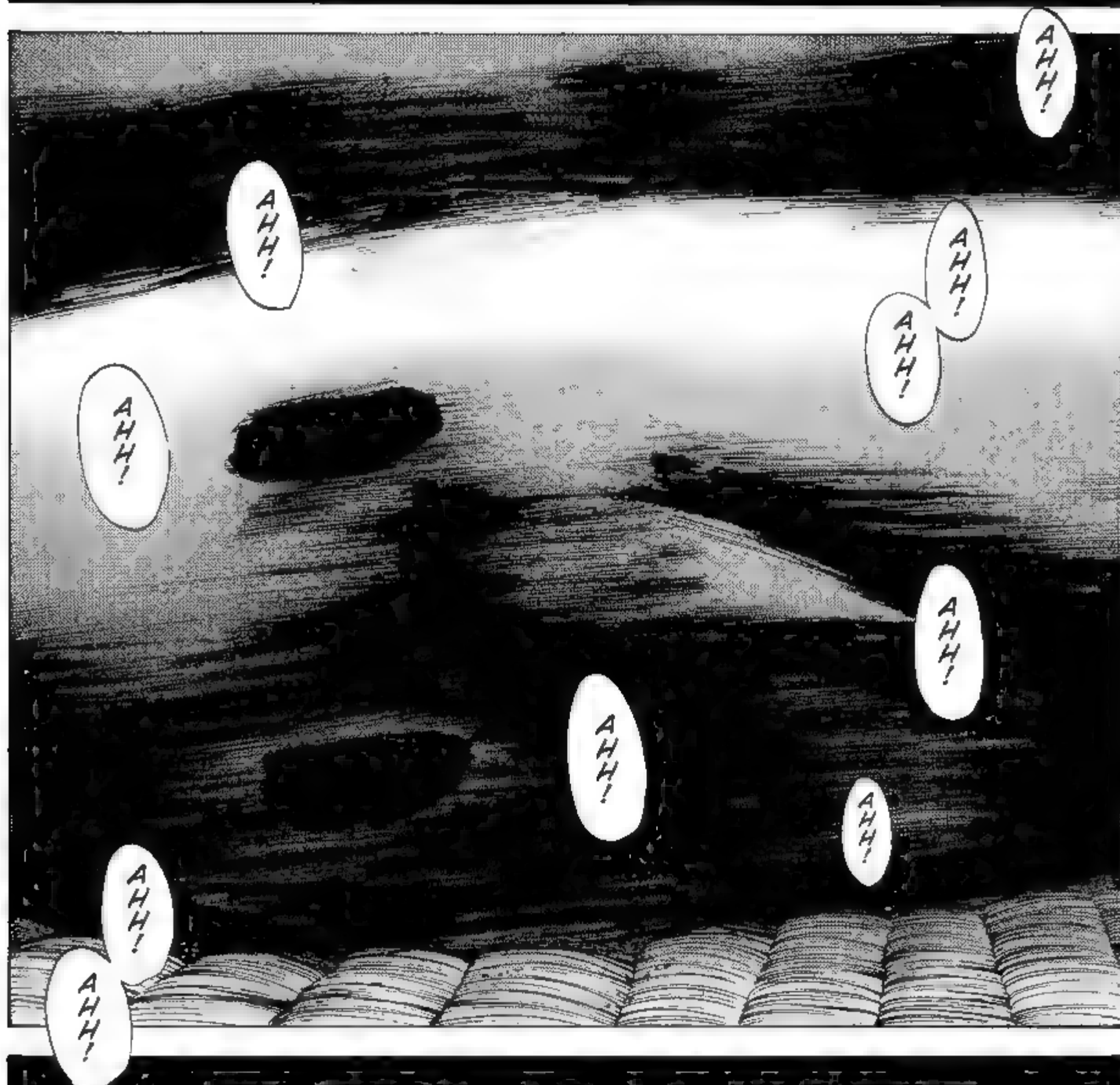






...that the
couple
next door
was ugly.

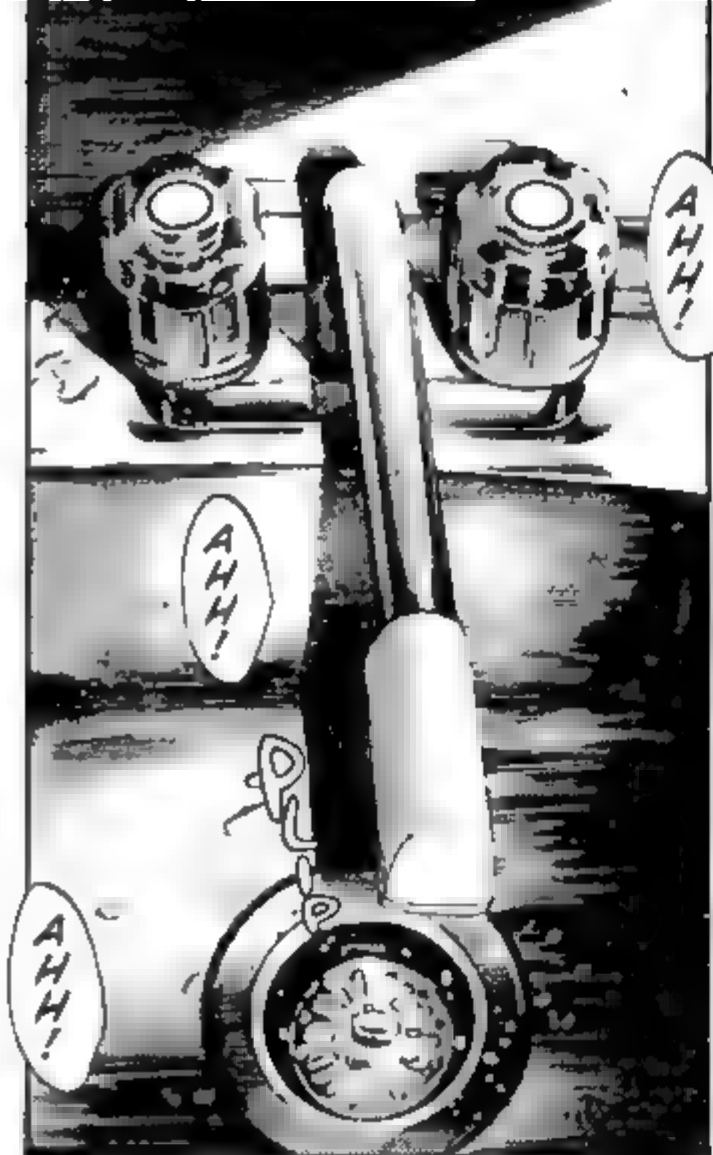
Punpun
hoped
from the
bottom of
his heart...



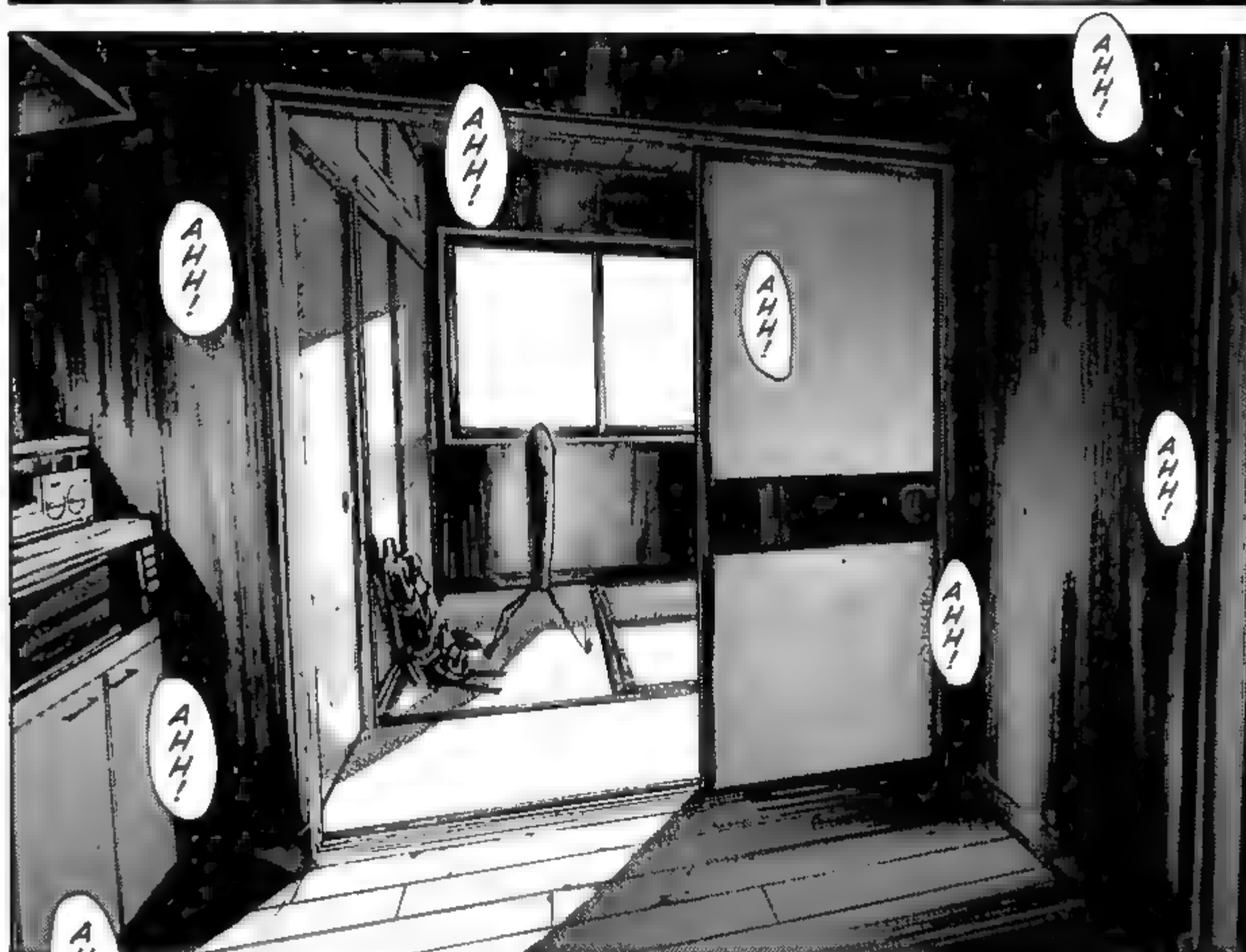
...if they
weren't.

...he
didn't
think he
could
take it...

Actually...



...felt as he was dying. Pupun wondered how the previous tenant, who had died here all alone...



Punpun suddenly had a thought.



...what if
nothing
had
changed?

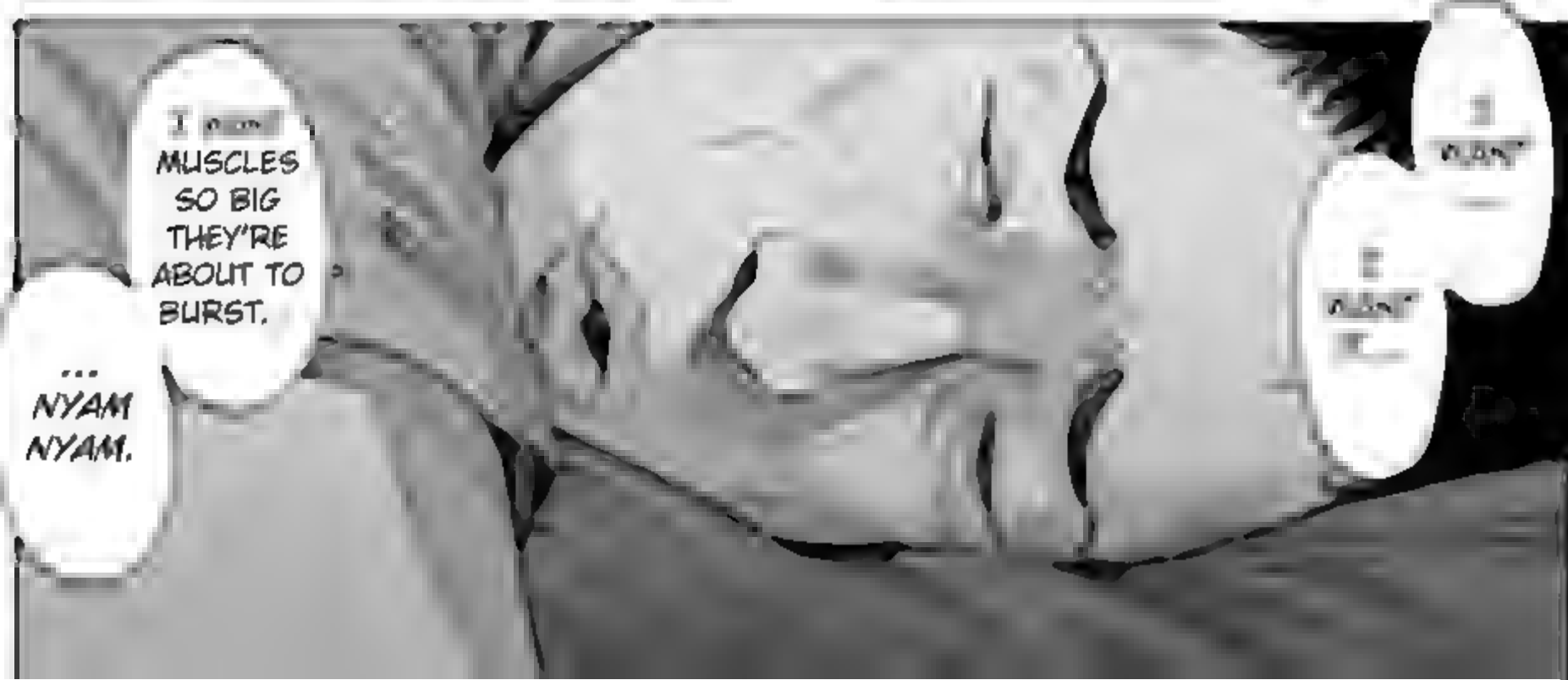
...when
it was
time to
renew his
lease...

In two
years...



...he'd
die.

That's
when...









THERE'S
SOMETHING
ONLY YOU
CAN DO.

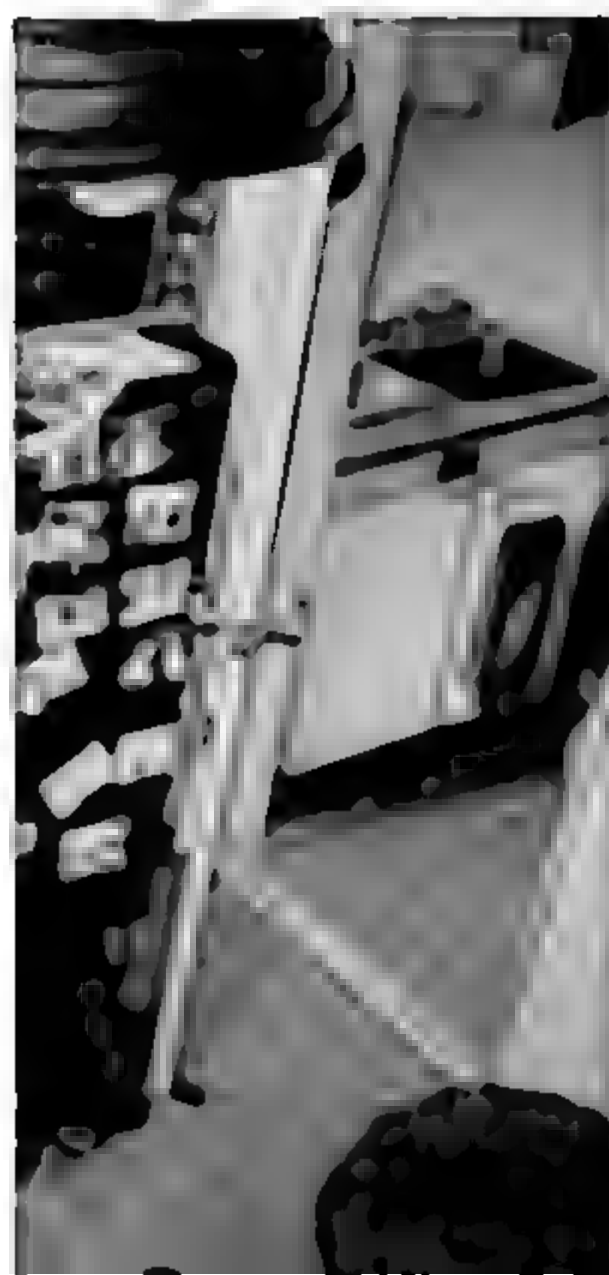
THERE
IS



COME
WITH ME
AND SEE
WHAT'S IN
THE VAST
UNIVERSE.

HERE

OUR
VIBRATIONS
ARE
MAKING
A SOUND
OF A HUNDRED
THOUSANDS

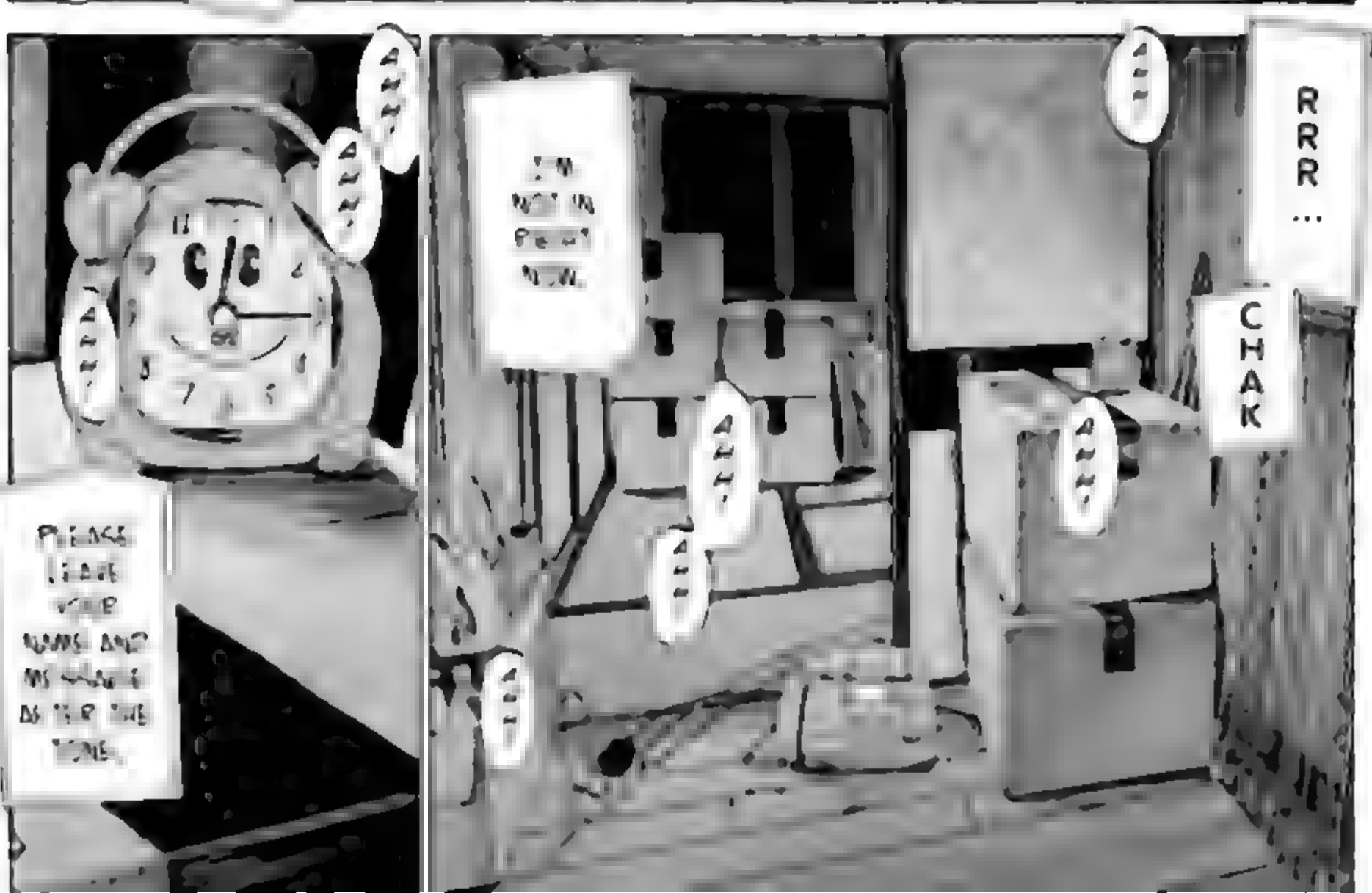
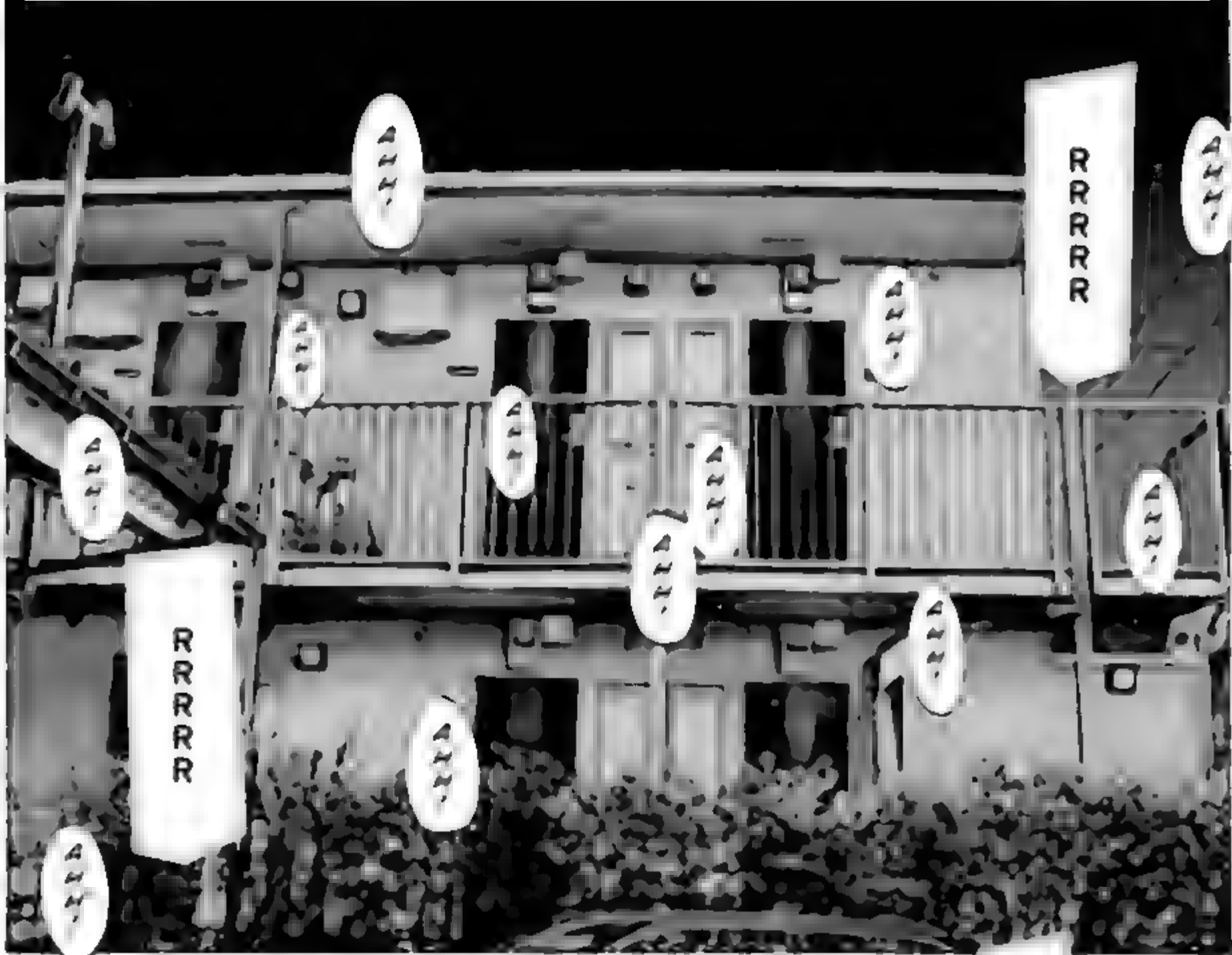


OH

SURE

I
WANT
TO
SEE
YOU







OH OH OH,
PUNPUN!

DON'T BE
NERVOUS.
LET'S
JUST STAY
ALIVE, OH
OH OH!



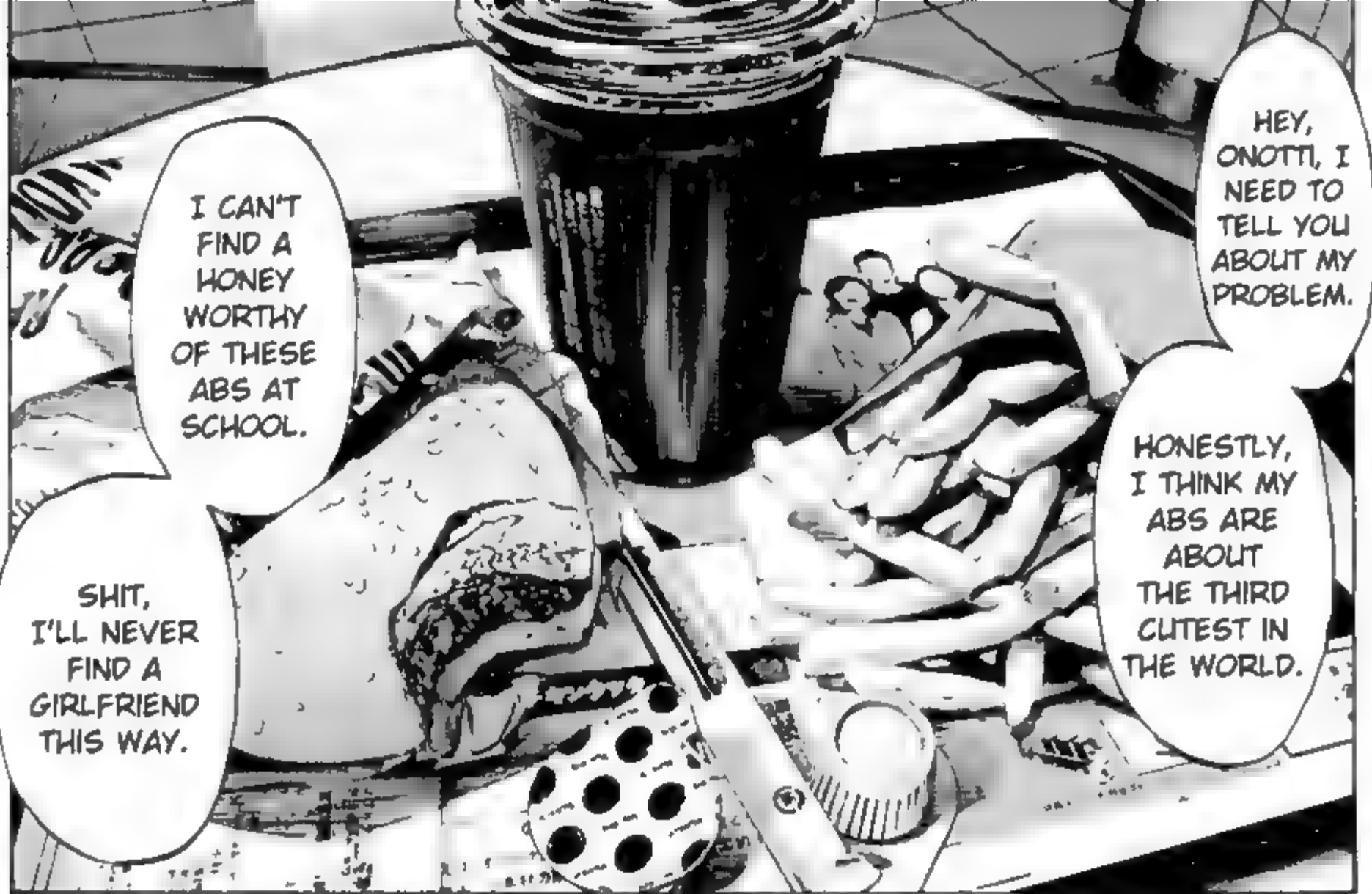
IT'S
STILL THE
DEAD OF
NIGHT, BUT
YOU KNOW,
THE SUN
ALWAYS
RISES...

SO,
ONOTTI,
HOW WAS
YOUR FIRST
DAY?

GOOD
JOB,
SUN-
SHINE!

YO...









...I'VE
BEEN
REALLY
WORRIED
RECENTLY.

I'M
STUDYING
ECONOMICS,
BUT APPAR-
ENTLY I
HAVE ZERO
INTEREST
IN IT.

BUT ALL
KIDDING
ASIDE ..

YEAH...



AS
SOON AS I
MADE THAT
DECISION,
IT'S LIKE
A FOG
LIFTED

AND A
FRIGHT-
ENINGLY
STRAIGHT
ROAD
APPEARED
IN FRONT
OF ME.

MY
PARENTS
ARE
TEACH-
ERS.
RIGHT?

SO I
THOUGHT,
SCREW IT,
I'LL JUST
GET A
TEACHING
CERTIFI-
CATE



IS IT
OKAY FOR
MY LIFE
TO TAKE
SUCH A
SIMPLE
PATH?

PART OF
ME WANTS
A REALLY
DYNAMIC
LIFE, YOU
KNOW?

BUT...

...WHY
DO I
STILL
FEEL
BAD?



YOU'RE SO COOL, AND YOU NEVER SEEM TO HAVE ANY WORRIES.

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY INSECURITIES? HOW ARE YOU SO CONFIDENT?

YOU KNOW, FREE, NOT BELONGING ANYWHERE.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.

I ENVY YOUR CONFIDENCE



BUT I WANT TO CHASE DREAMS

IT'S YOUR ATTITUDE, LIKE YOU'RE A FIERCE GOD. I SERIOUSLY RESPECT THAT.

MAYBE THAT'S THE DEFINITION OF FEARLESS



I'LL MAKE THE BARE ABS LOOK A THING AND BECOME THE MASTER OF STREET FASHION.

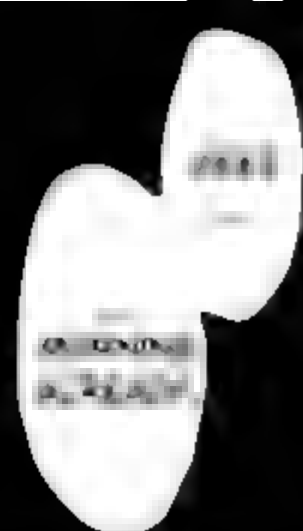
THEN I'LL BECOME THE FACE OF DAYTIME TV AND HAVE A HOT POT RESTAURANT IN AKASAKA.

THE YOUNG NEED DREAMS.

THAT'S RIGHT

...about
having
dreams
that would
never
come true.

Punpun
didn't
want to
think...

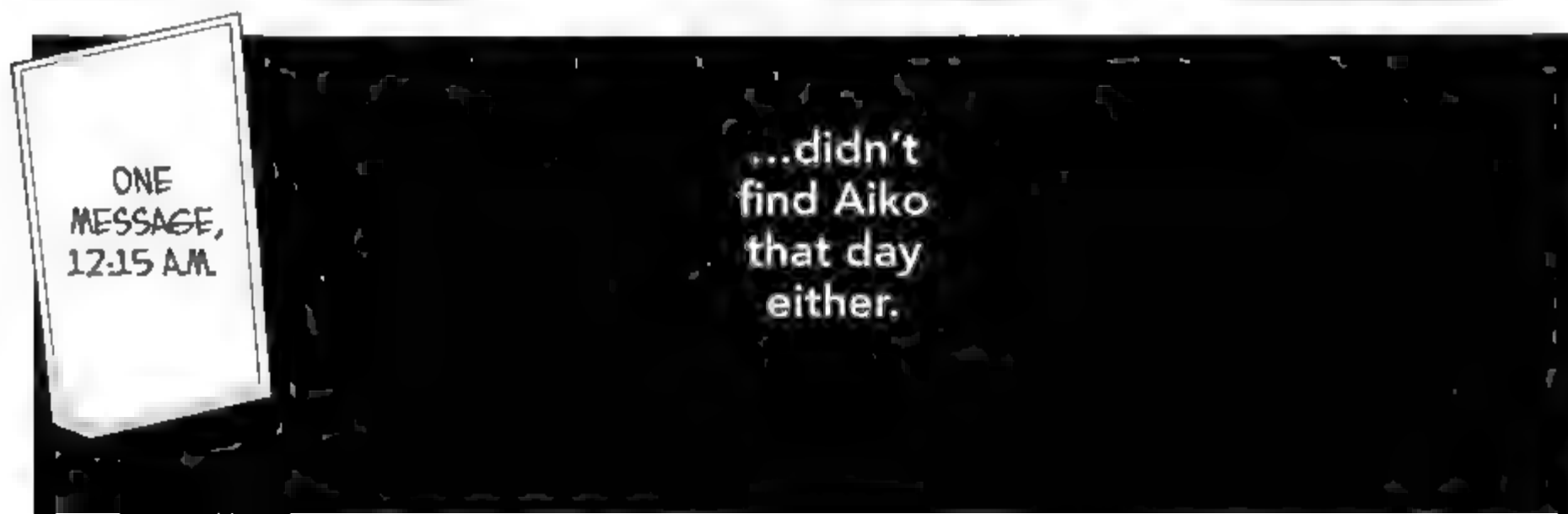
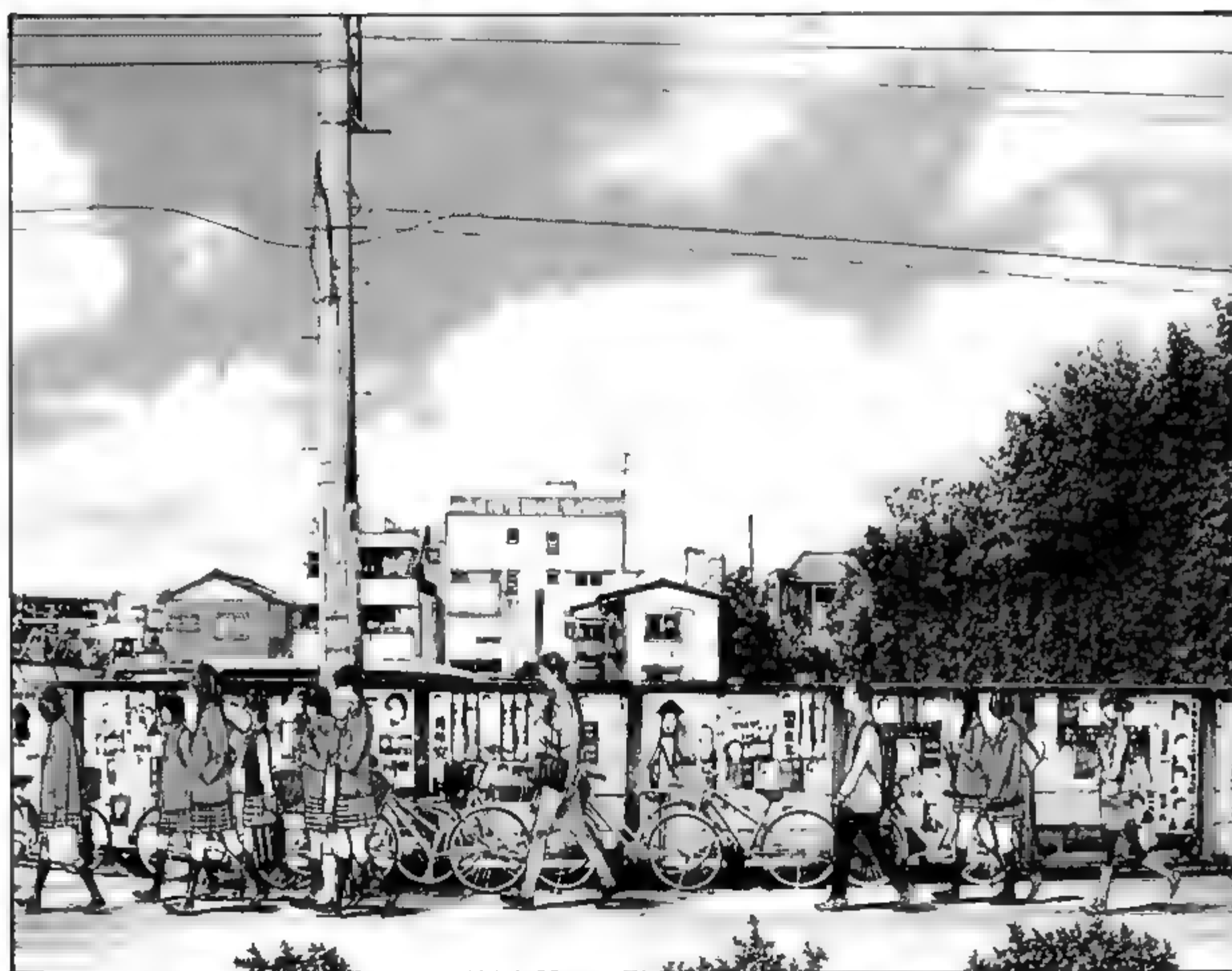
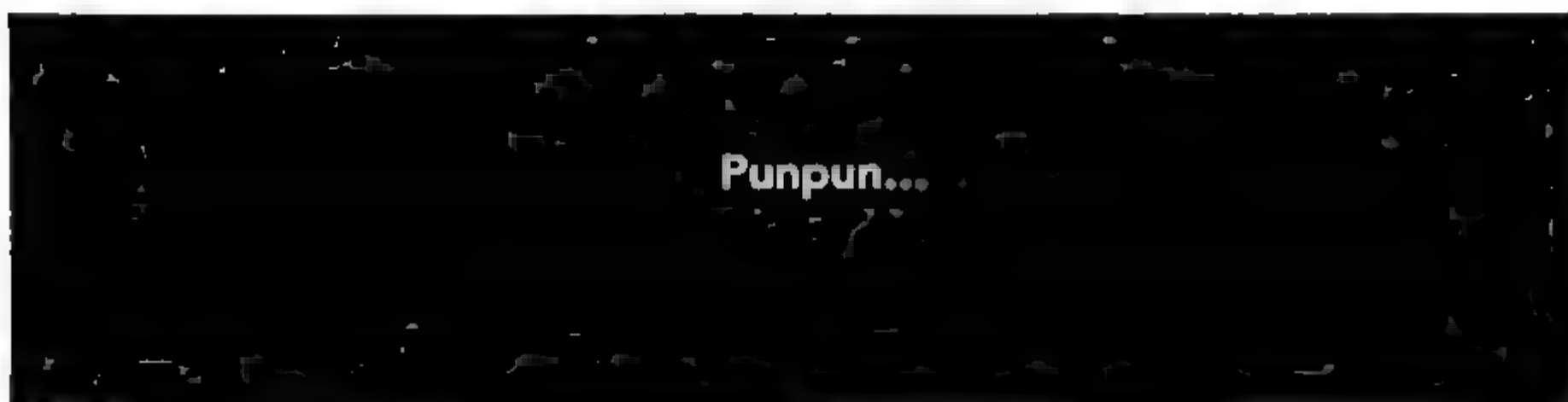


There's a
fine line
between
cool and
empty.



...worthy of
telling to
other
people
meant
they were
already
fulfilled.

But
maybe, in
a sense,
just
having
dreams
and
worries...







Punpun
was very
tired again
that day.



HEY
THERE,
BUDDY,
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

HEY

...

...
BUDDY.



...

WHAT DO YOU GUYS DO?



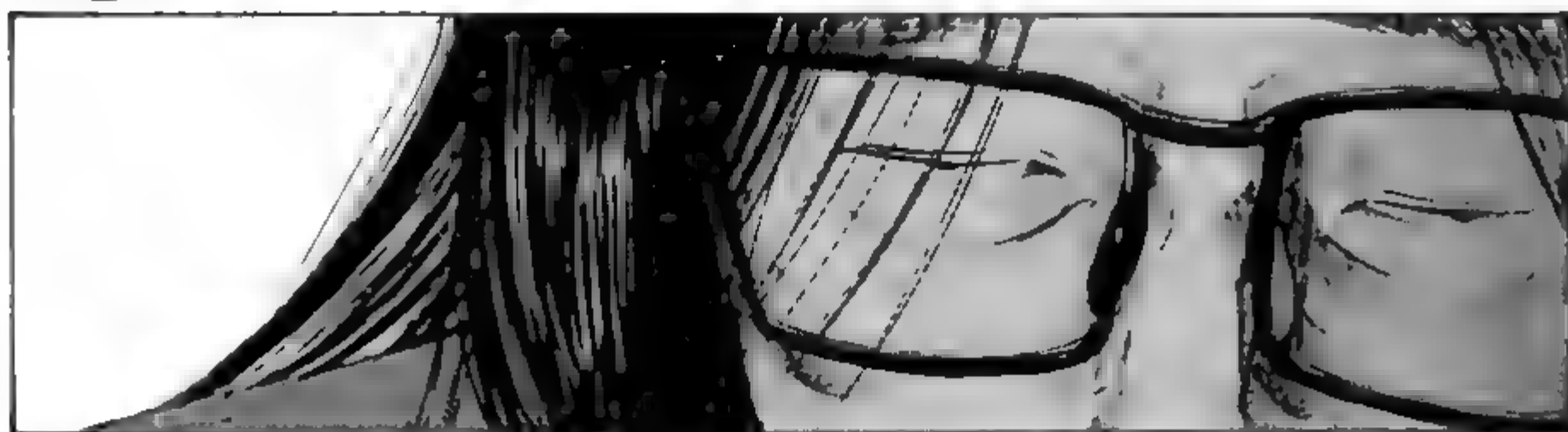
ONE OF THE NEIGHBORS CALLED US BECAUSE THEY SAW SOMEONE SLEEPING HERE ALL NIGHT.

OH GOOD, YOU'RE UP.



ARE YOU DRUNK, BUDDY?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WE'RE POLICE.



I ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORT YOU!

I APPLAUD YOU!

WONDERFUL...









I DON'T KNOW
THEY GOT
SOME ALL
OVER IT.

FOR I
GET
SCARY
THING ON
FOOT

HUH?

WHY
ARE YOU
STARING
AT ME,
ONOTTI?

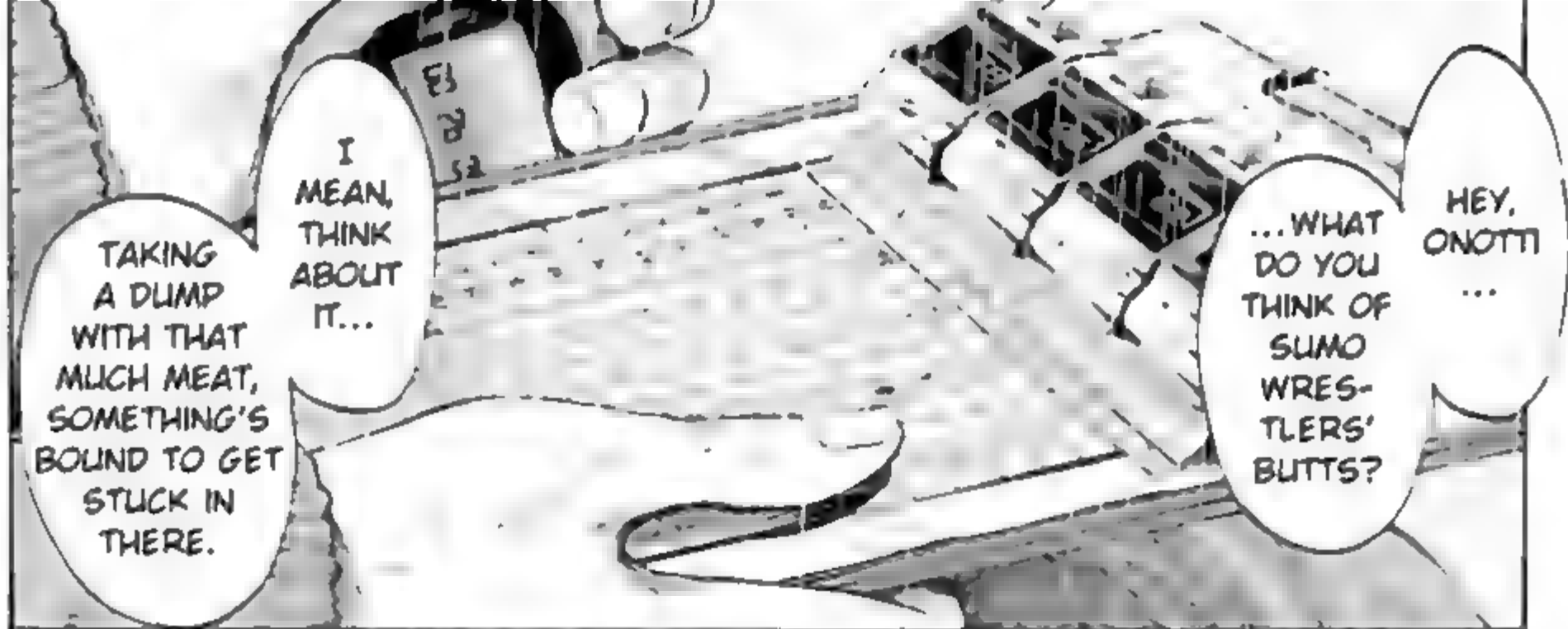


BOOM,
MIMURA
MISSILE.

WHAT
IS IT? I'M
ALWAYS
SUPER
ENERGETIC.

ACTUALLY,
SINCE I GOT A
GIRLFRIEND RIGHT
BEFORE SUMMER
STARTED, I DON'T
THINK IT'S AN
EXAGGERATION
TO SAY THAT I
AM INVINCIBLE
RIGHT NOW.

IT'S TIME
TO GET
BACK TO
OUR
STATIONS,
ONOTTI.

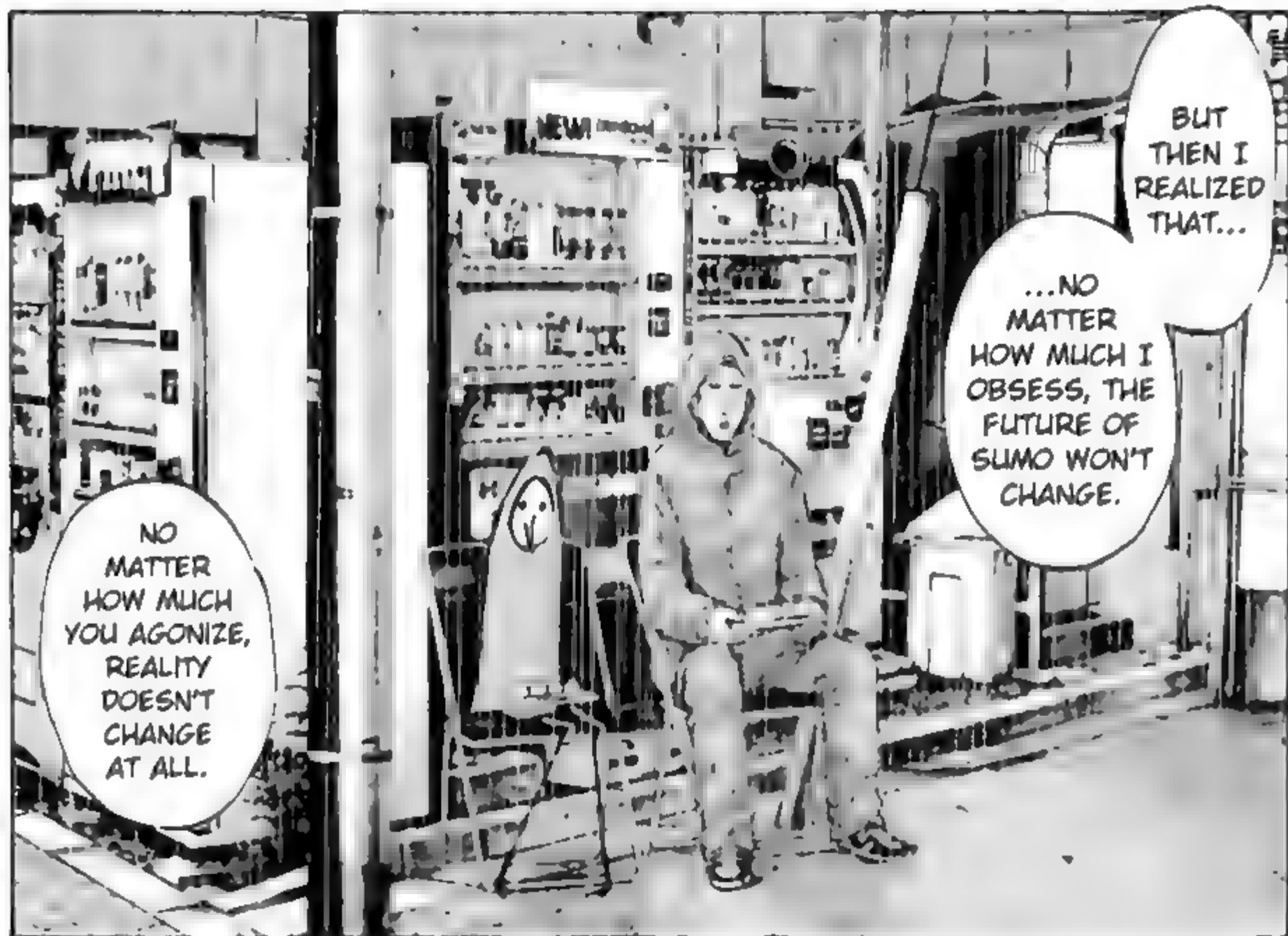


TAKING
A DUMP
WITH THAT
MUCH MEAT,
SOMETHING'S
BOUND TO GET
STUCK IN
THERE.

I
MEAN,
THINK
ABOUT
IT...

...WHAT
DO YOU
THINK OF
SUMO
WRES-
TLERS'
BUTTS?

HEY,
ONOTTI
...



NO
MATTER
HOW MUCH
YOU AGONIZE,
REALITY
DOESN'T
CHANGE
AT ALL.

BUT
THEN I
REALIZED
THAT...

...NO
MATTER
HOW MUCH I
OBSESS, THE
FUTURE OF
SUMO WON'T
CHANGE.



AND TO MAKE
MATTERS WORSE,
UNLESS I SOLVE
THE VERY BORING
PROBLEMS RIGHT
IN FRONT OF ME,
MY PERSONAL
LIVELIHOOD IS IN
JEOPARDY.

BUT NO
MATTER
HOW MUCH
I STRESS
ABOUT IT,
THE WORLD
DOESN'T
GET ANY
BETTER.

IT'S
LIKE
HOW...

...I'VE
ALWAYS
WORRIED
ABOUT THE
FUTURE
OF ALL
MANKIND.



I'M
TELLING YOU
UP FRONT—
THIS IS NOT
BECAUSE MY
GIRLFRIEND
INFLUENCED
ME.

BUT
YOU
KNOW,
ONOTTI
...

...NO MATTER
WHAT ANYONE
SAYS, I THINK
IT WOULD
BE OKAY TO
STAY A BOY
FOREVER.

BUT
TIME IS
CRUEL.

YOU
RESIST,
BUT YOU'RE
SLOWLY,
INEVITABLY
PUSHED
TOWARDS
ADULT-
HOOD.



NO WAY
YOU'D
GET MY
SENSITIVITY,
ONOTTI.

YEAH,
THIS ME
IS PRETTY
COOL TOO.

...EVEN
THOUGH
IT'S A
PAIN.

I'M
GOING
TO CRAM
HARD TO
GET THAT
TEACHING
CERTIFI-
CATE...



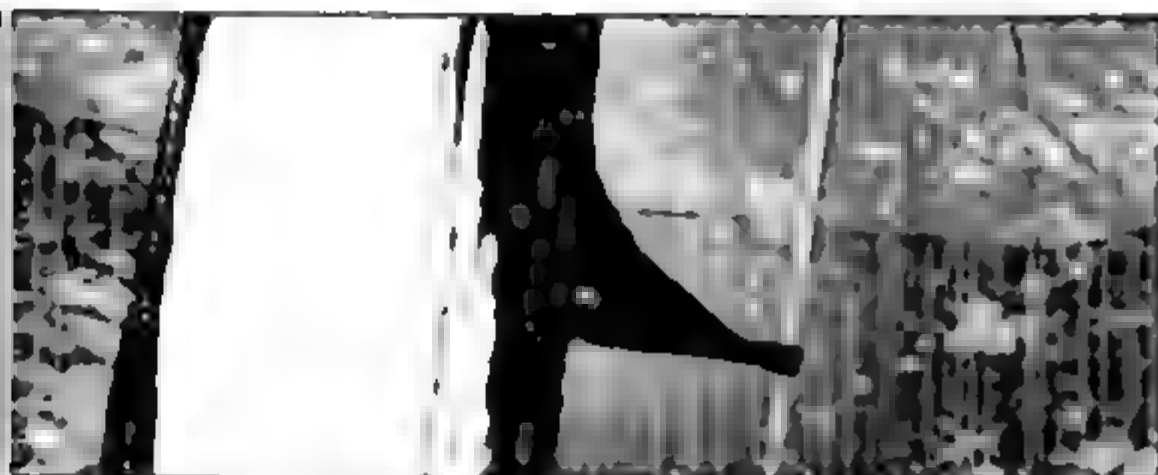
PLAYING
GAMES WITH
THE NIGHT
IS HOW KIDS
GROW UP.
ARE YOU
GOING TO
FORFEIT?!

I'VE
DECIDED
TO HAVE A
CRY WHILE
TORTURING
MY ABS
TONIGHT.

WELL
DONE,
SUNSET!



The children ran by, giggling innocently.

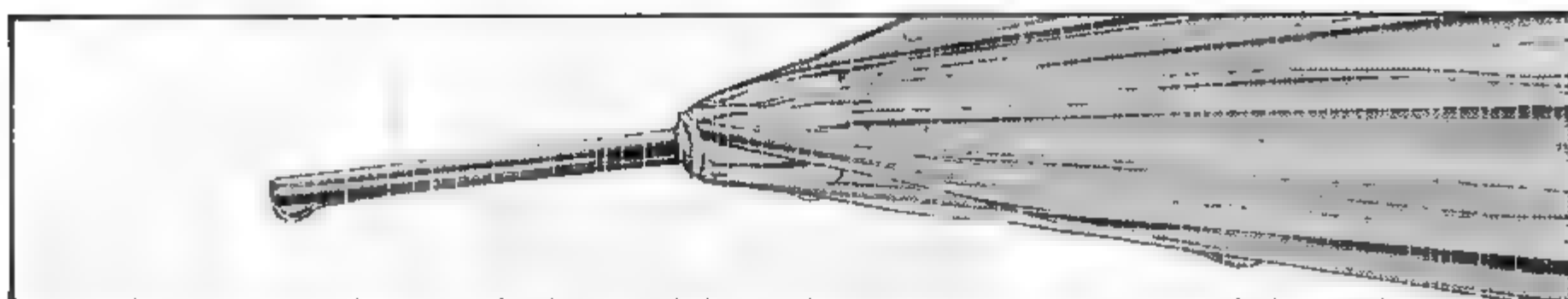




...made
Punpun...

...filled with
dreams and
hopes like
weird water
balloons...

Thinking
about the
round heads
of these
children...



...never
mind.

No...



No
matter
how
hard he
looked...



...much
like the
raining
season,
which
seemed
like it
would
never
end.

—
continued
on without
change or
variation
—



...
couldn't
find Aiko.





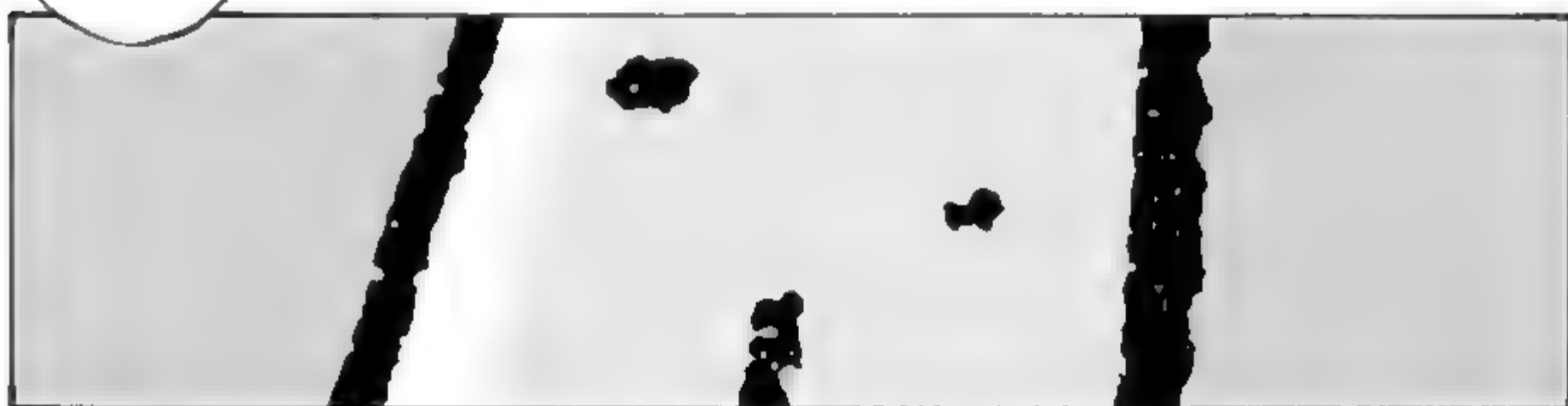
PUNPUN,
YOU'RE
ONLY 18,
RIGHT?

I THINK
TEEN
GIRLS ARE
MANKIND'S
GREATEST
ASSET.

WELL,
I'M NOT
PICKY IF
THEY'RE IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL OR
GRADE
SCHOOL.

IF YOU
EVER GO
TO A MIXER,
PLEASE,
PLEASE
INVITE
ME...

I'LL
TEACH YOU
MY SECRET
METHOD FOR
GUARANTEED
SUCCESS.



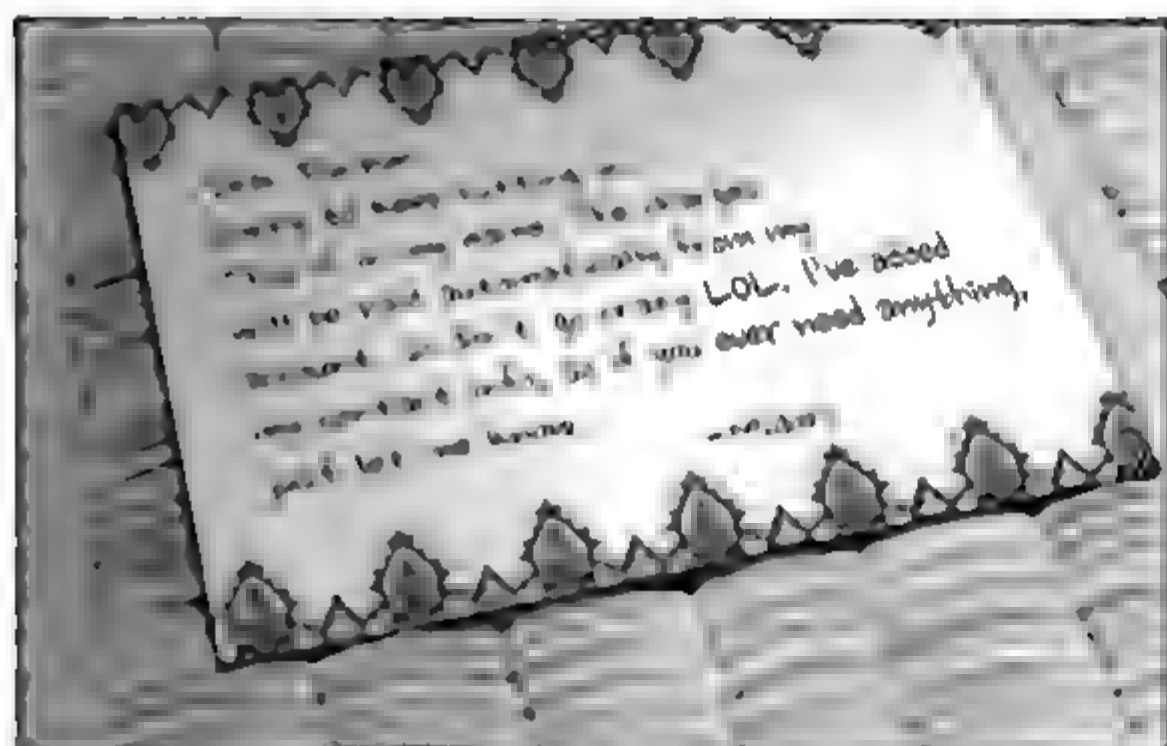
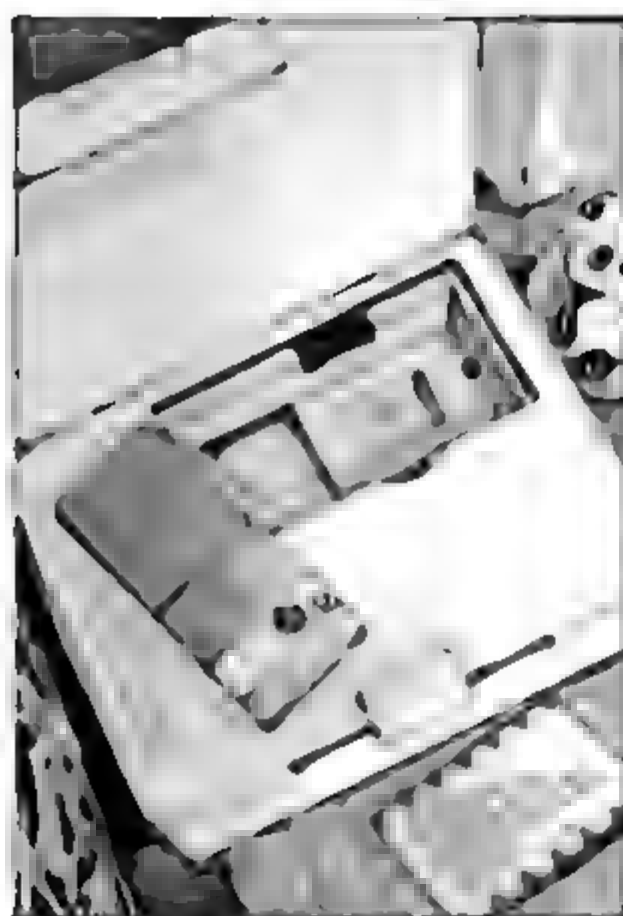
HUH?
YOU
DON'T
FEEL
WELL?

OKAY,
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.
GO HOME
AND
REST.



DON'T
FORGET
ABOUT THE
MIXER.
HAAH!

I'LL
THINK
SOME-
THING UP
TO TELL
THE MAN-
AGER.



...but
that was
not the
problem.

Everyone
surely
meant
well...



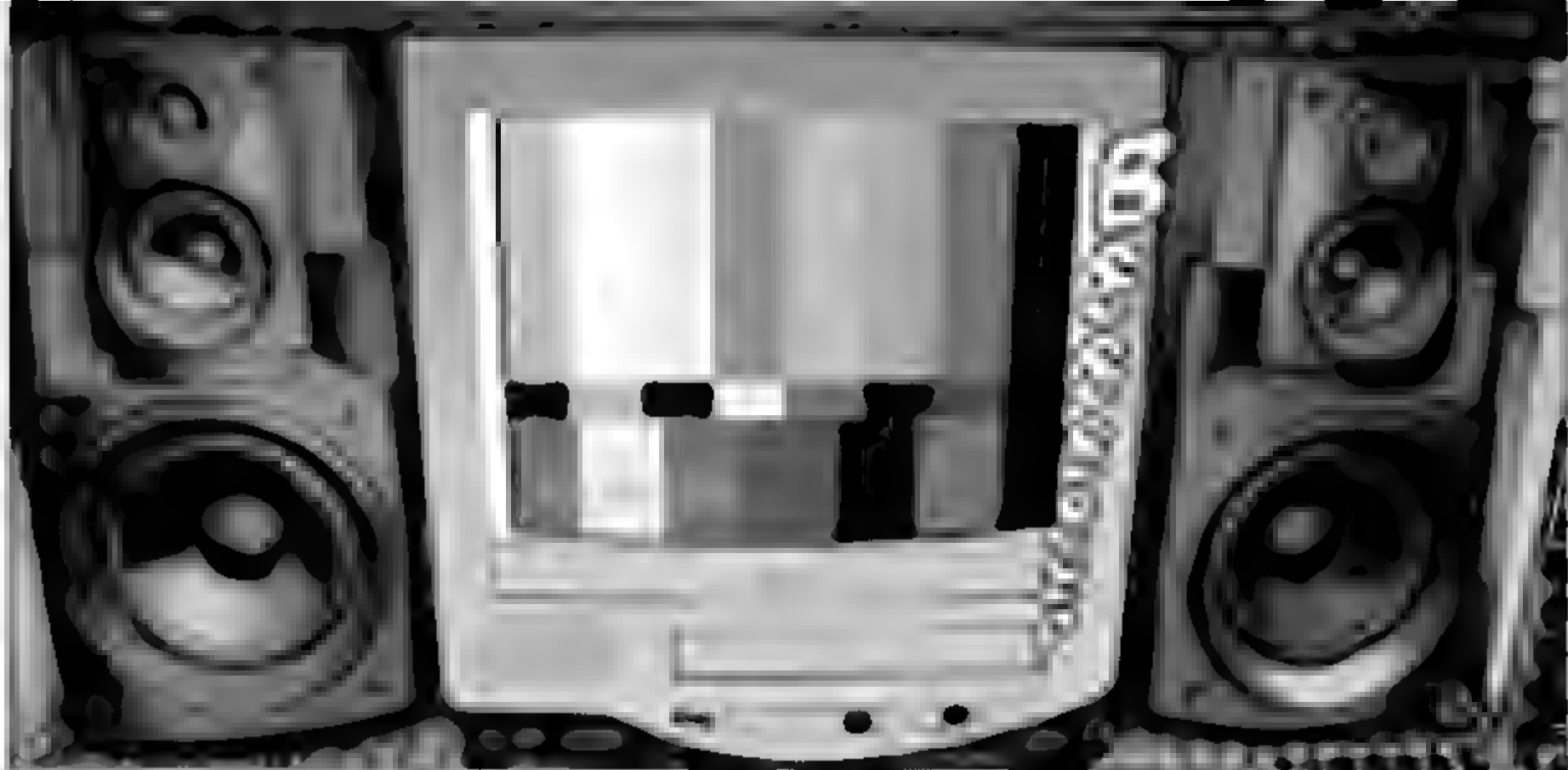
That
wasn't the
problem.

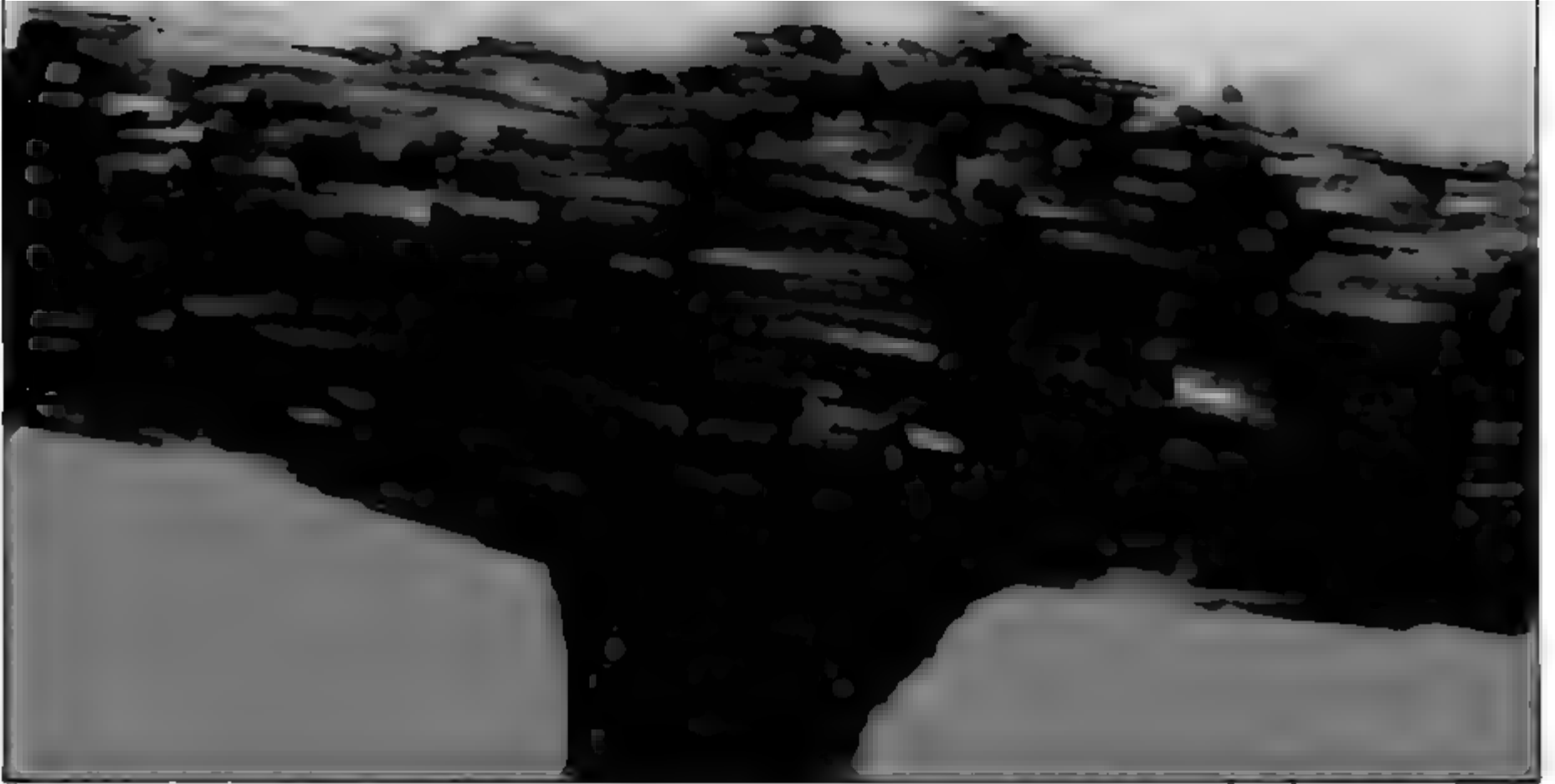


"Dear God,
dear God,
tinkle hoy."

...a man
was driven
to say...

In times
like this...

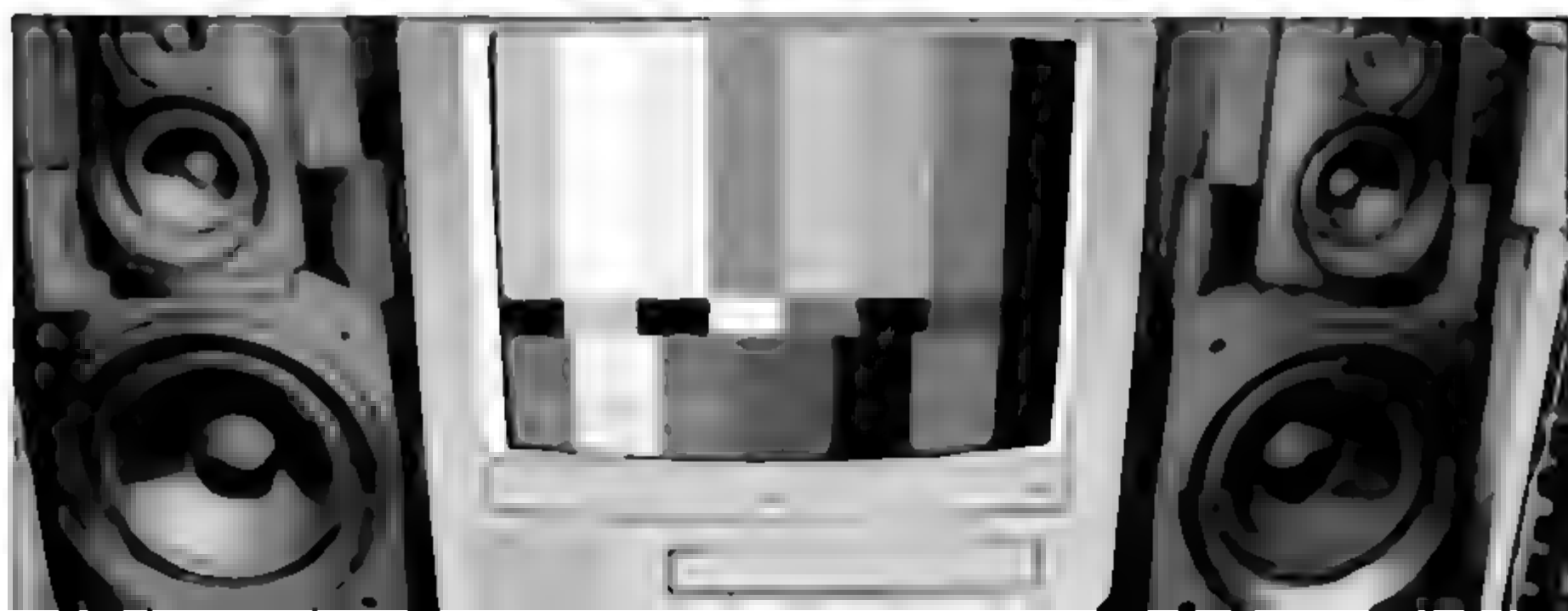
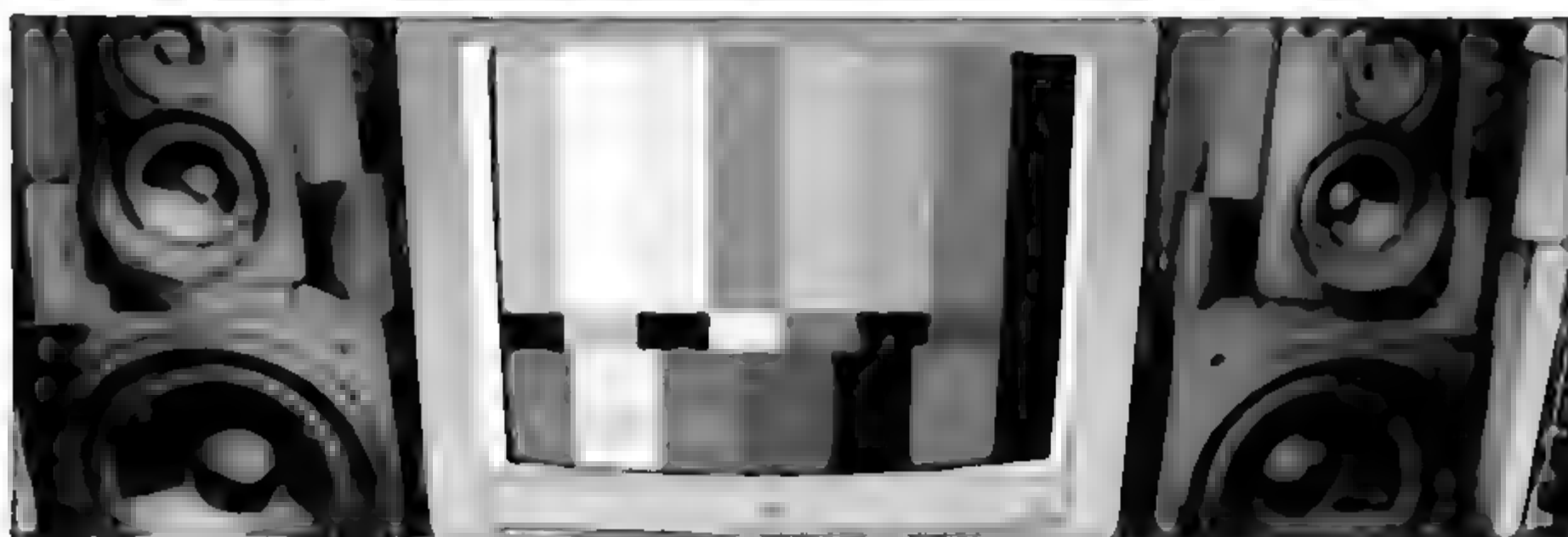


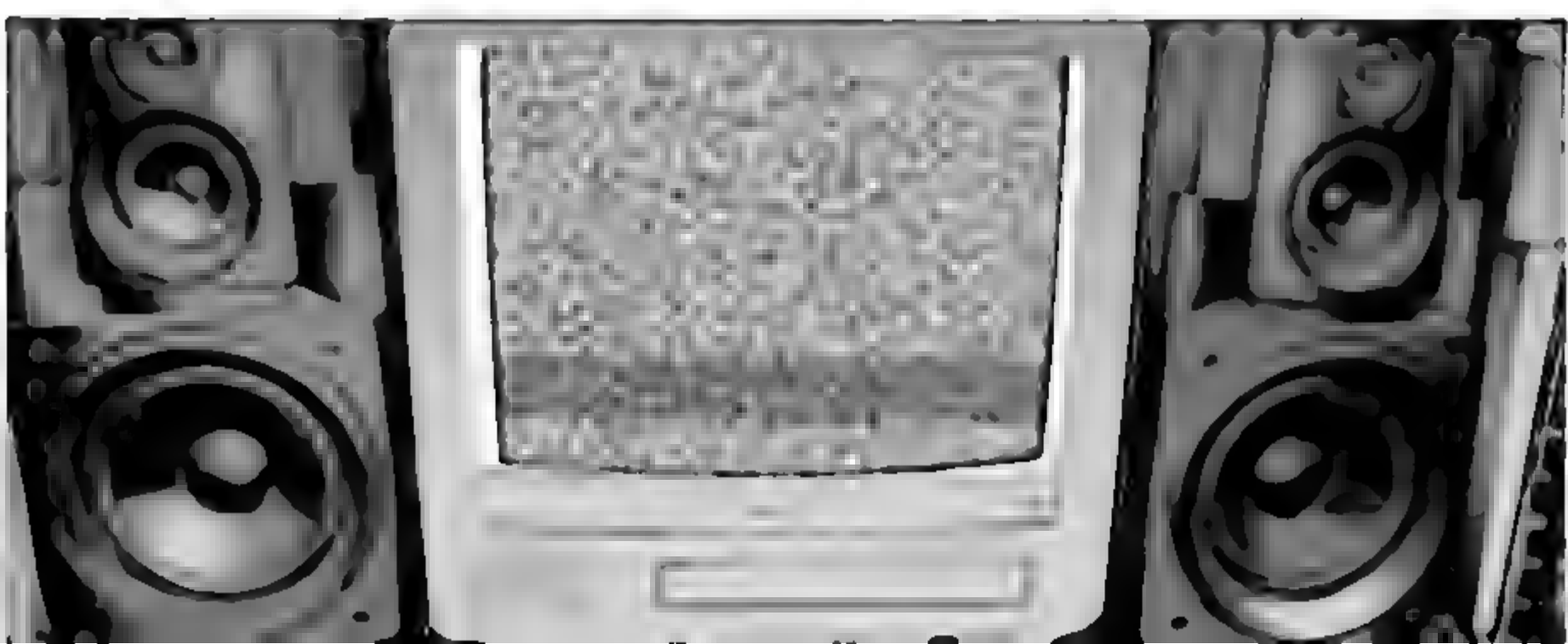
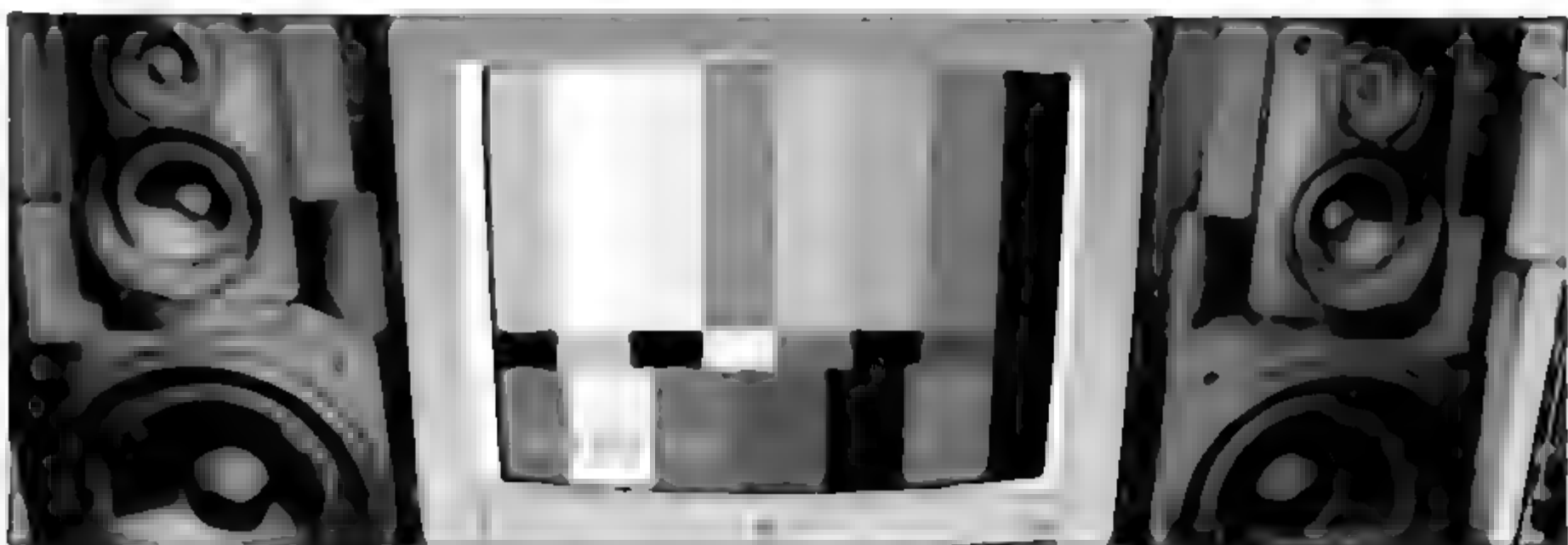


It was
his own
fault.



Oh.







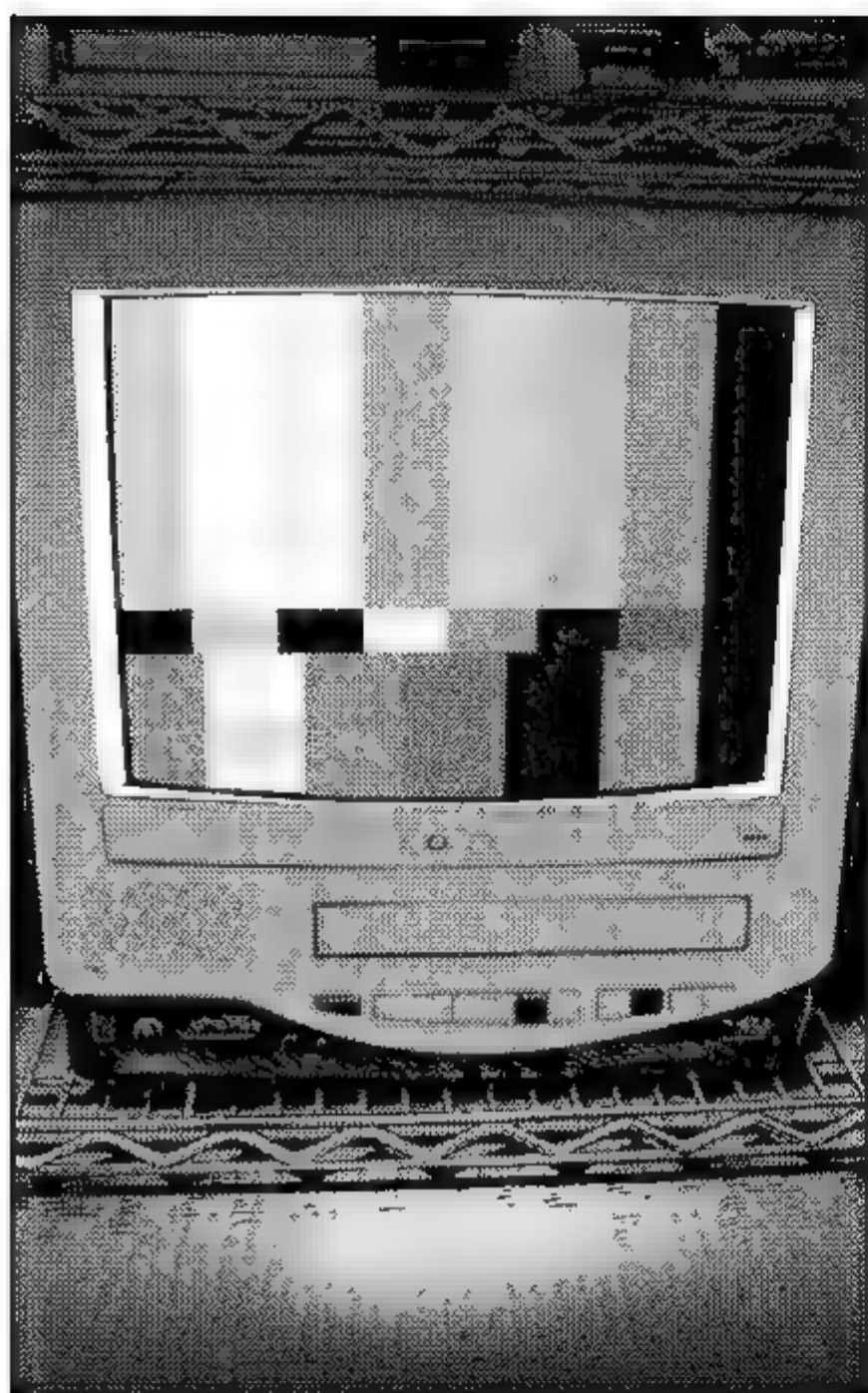


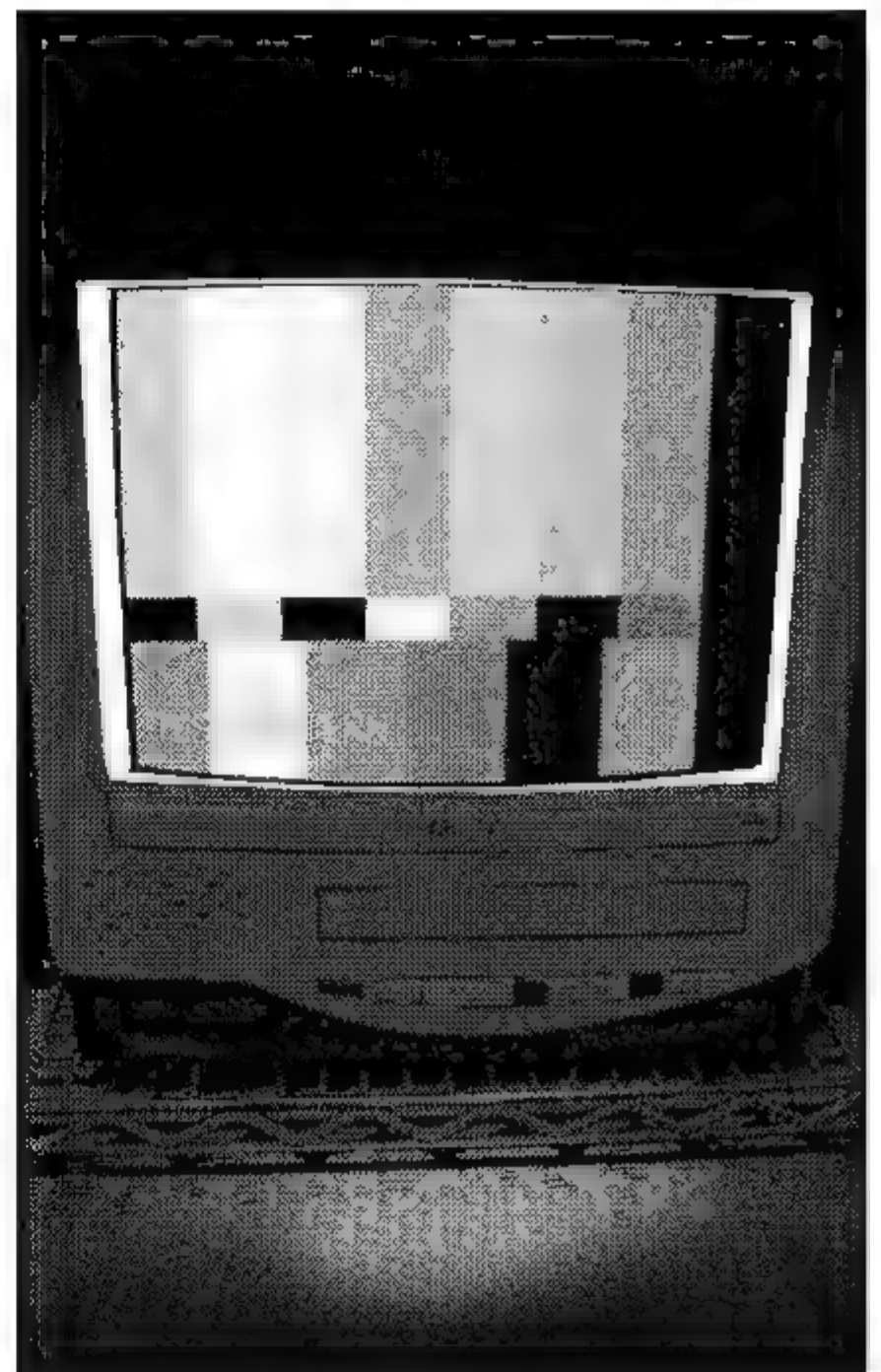


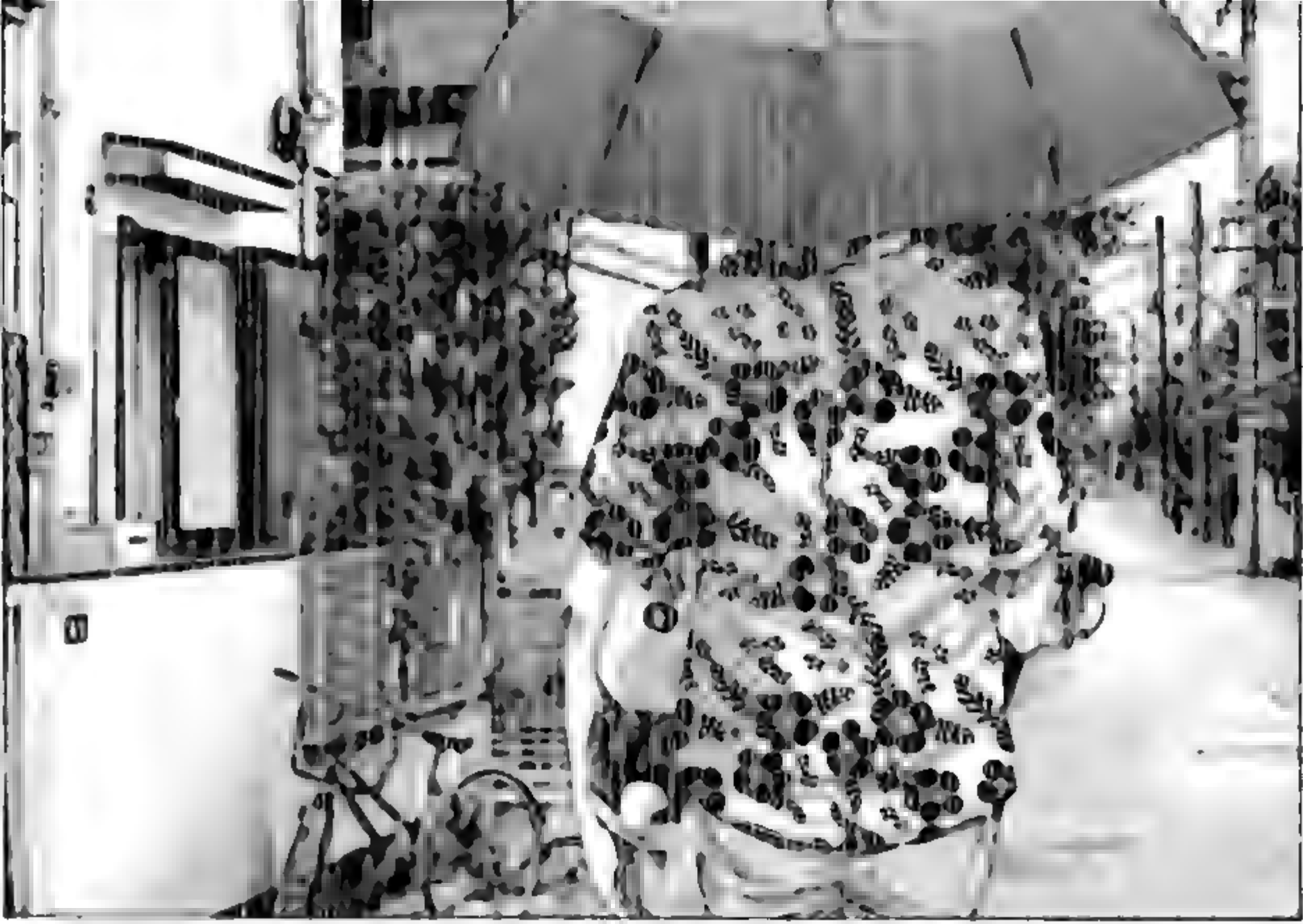


AWOOOOO!!

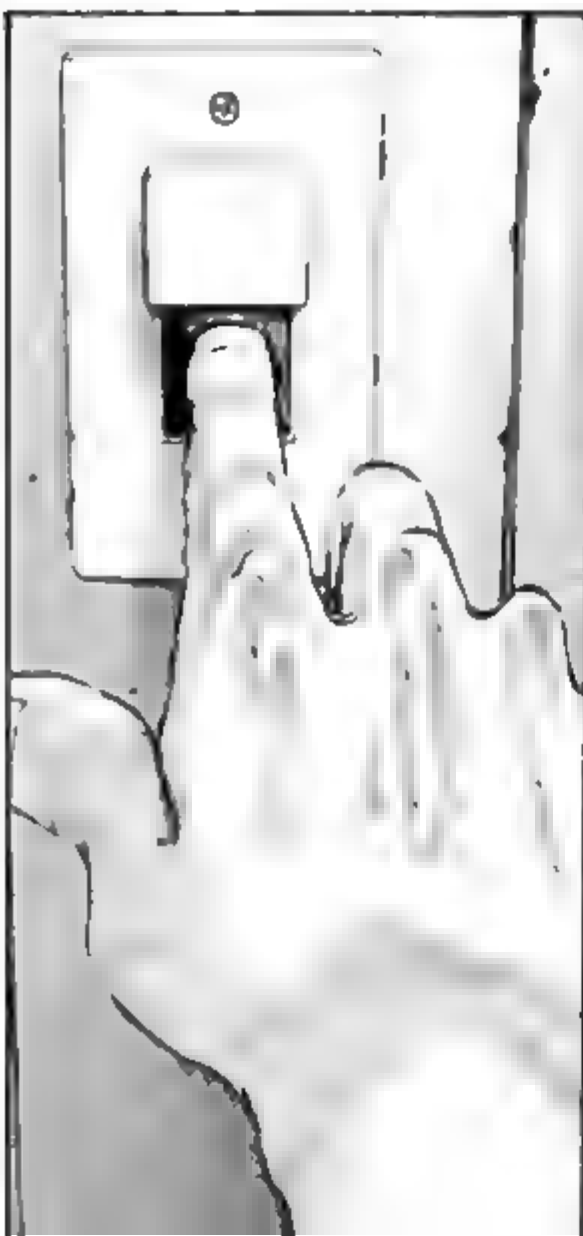






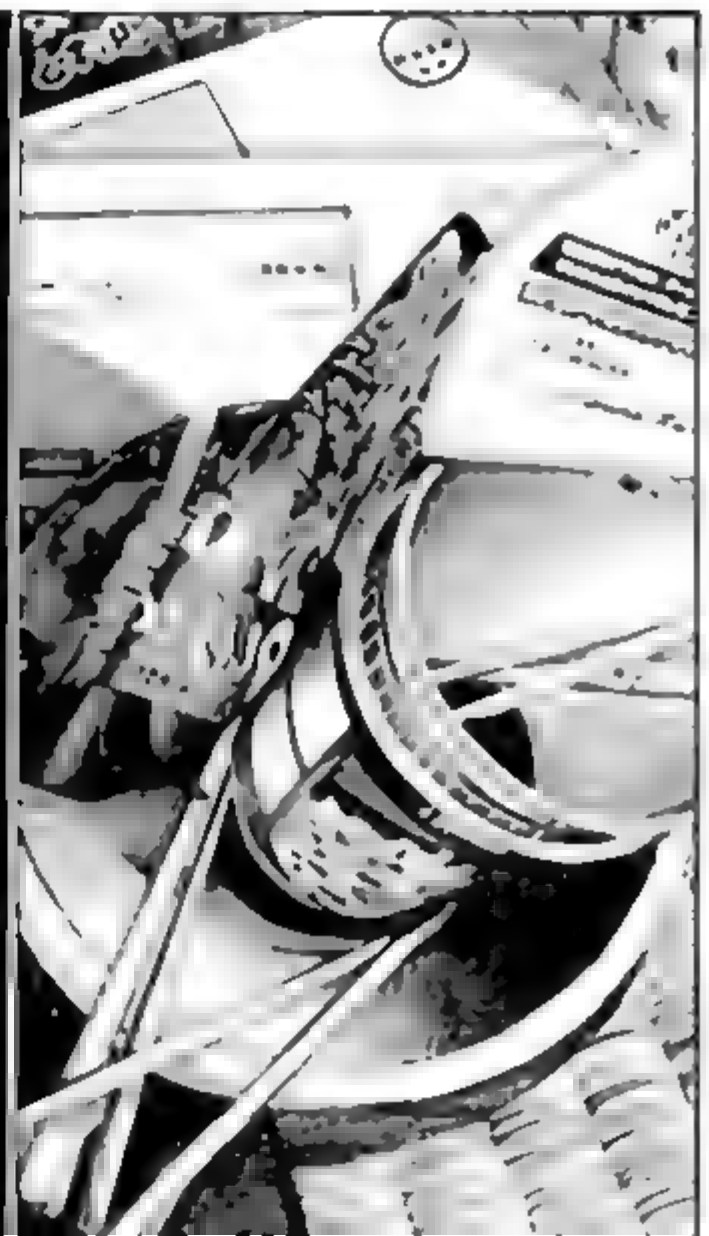


The
rain...



...was
coming
down
stupidly

...like
it had
forgotten
how to
stop.



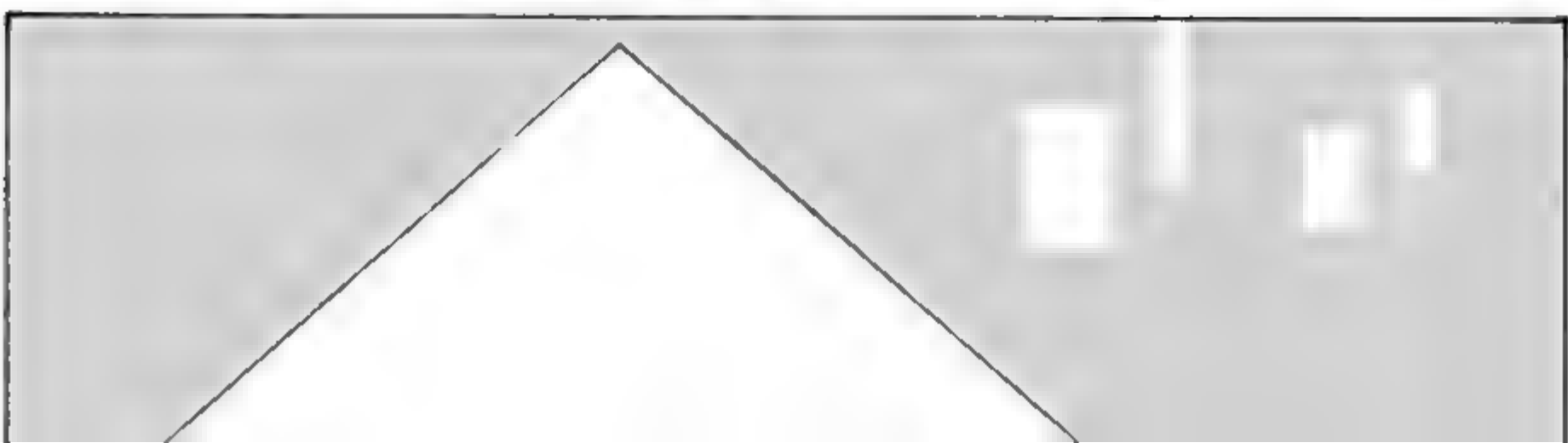
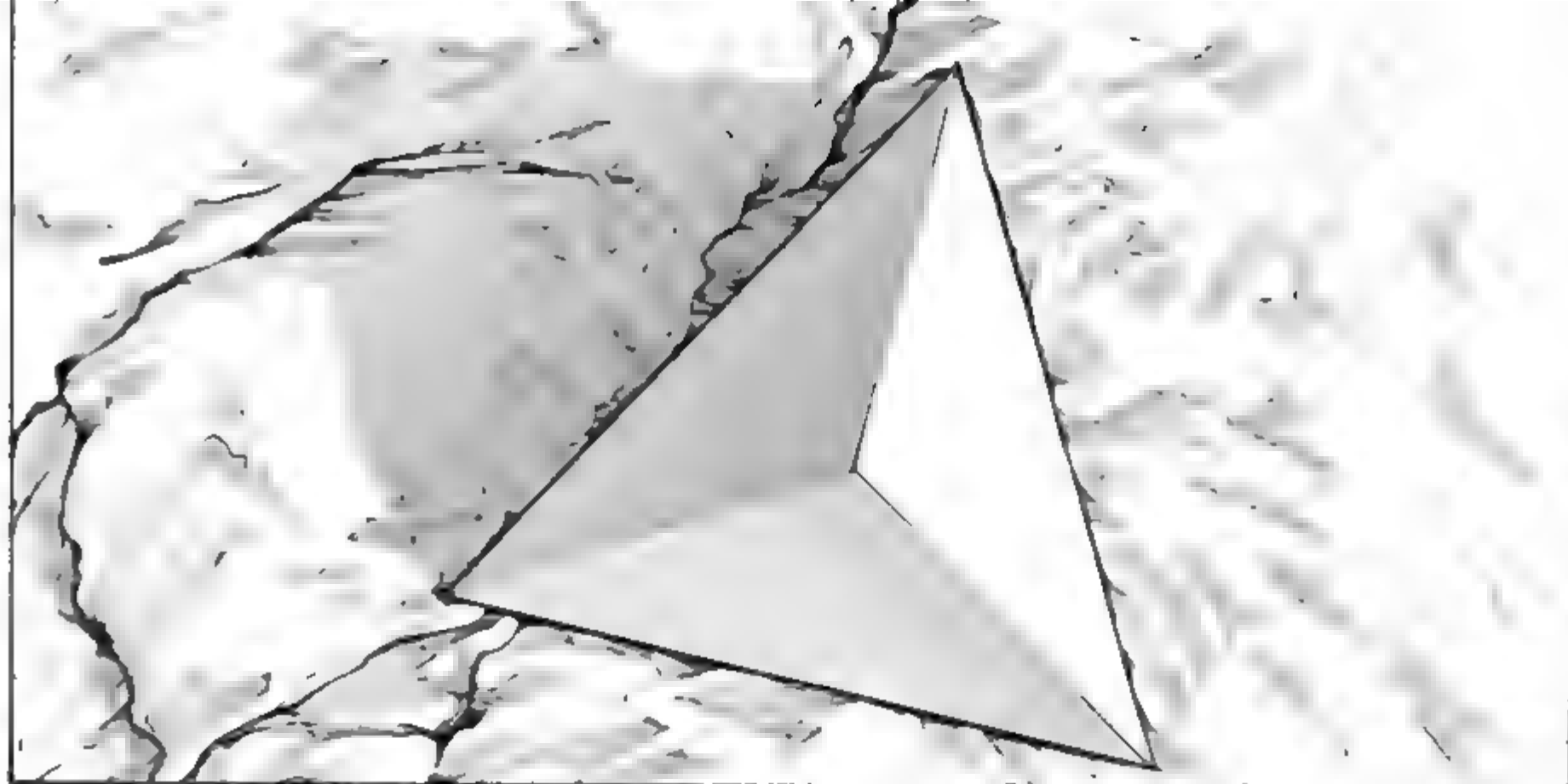
...as if it
wanted to
keep him
confined to
the 100-
square-
foot room.

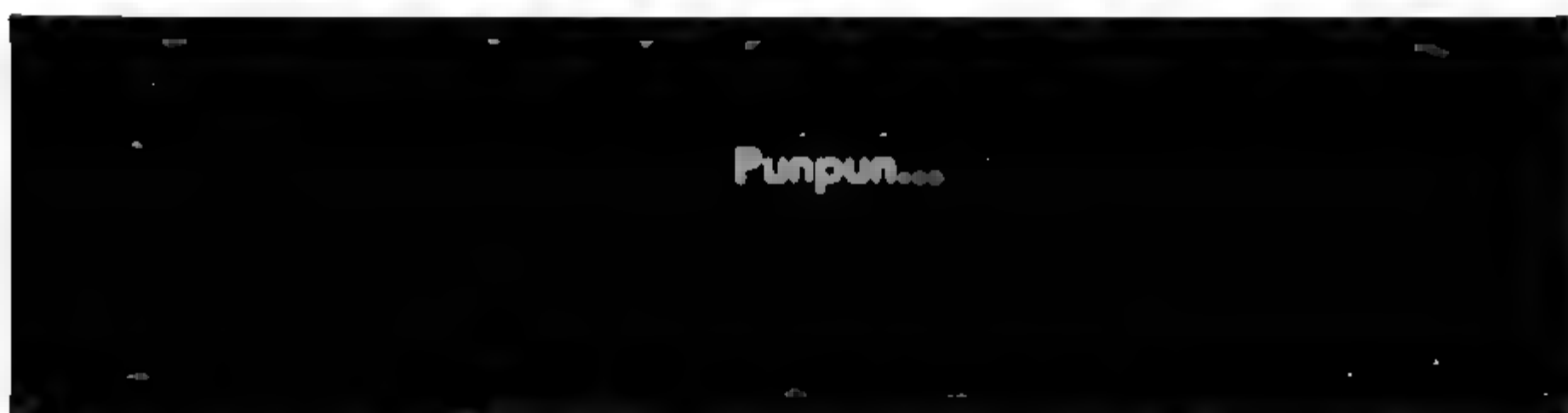
...the
louder
the rain
got...



The more
Punpun
thought
about how
he had to
get up and
go outside...













HE
BOUGHT INTO
A CRAZY CULT,
AND THERE
WAS A LITTLE
INCIDENT...

...BUT HE
WAS SERIOUS
AND HONEST
TO A FAULT.

DO YOU
REMEMBER
THE STORY
I TOLD YOU
WHEN YOU
SIGNED
YOUR
LEASE?

THE OLD
MAN WHO
USED TO
LIVE IN
YOUR ROOM
GOT SICK
AND DIED
THERE.



YOU
KNOW,
AROUND
THE EYES,
THE WAY
YOU ARE.

YOU
REMINDE
ME OF
HIM,
PUNPUN...



OBVI-
OUSLY,
THERE'S
NOTHING
I CAN DO
ABOUT IT
NOW...

...BUT
WHEN I
THINK ABOUT
HOW MAYBE
I COULD
HAVE SAVED
HIM...

IT'S
JUST THAT
IT'S BEEN
STUCK IN
THE BACK
OF MY
MIND.

I'M
SORRY
IF I
OFFEND-
ED YOU.

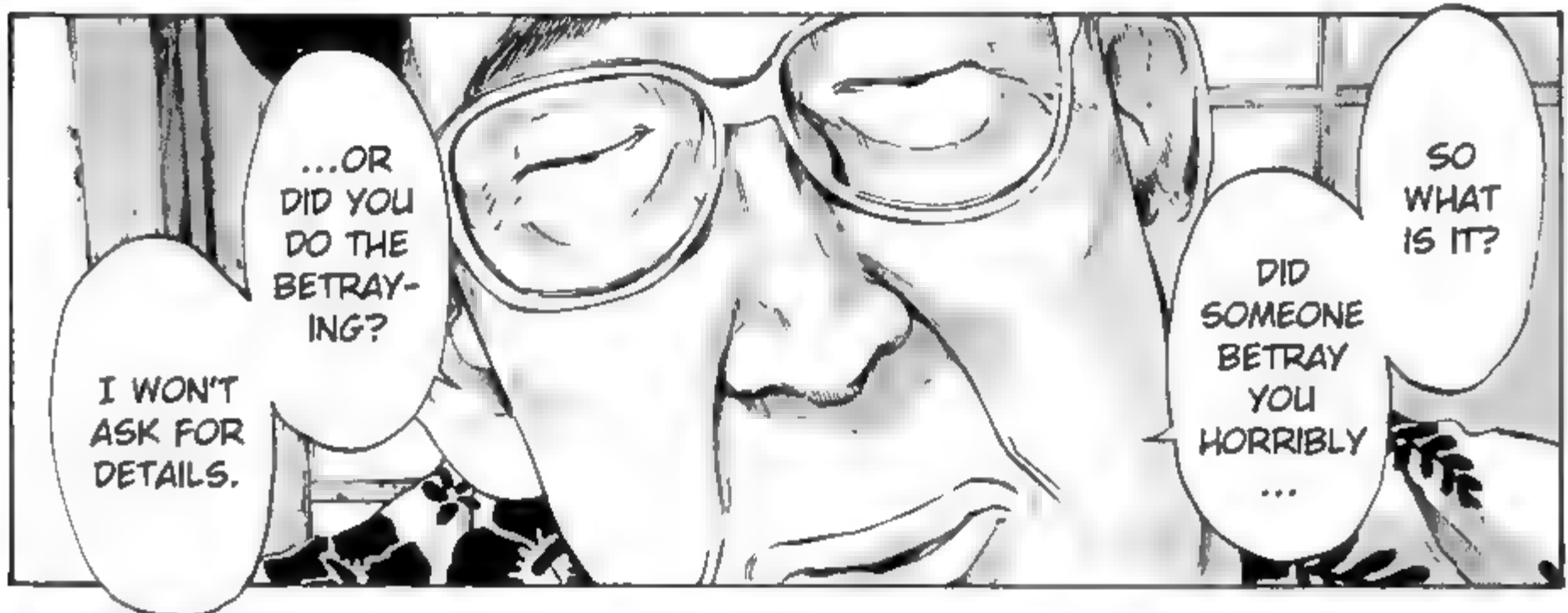
OH,
NO,
NO...





THAT'S
WHAT
YOUR
EYES ARE
TELLING
ME.

BUT YOU
NEVER
OPEN
UP TO
OTHERS.

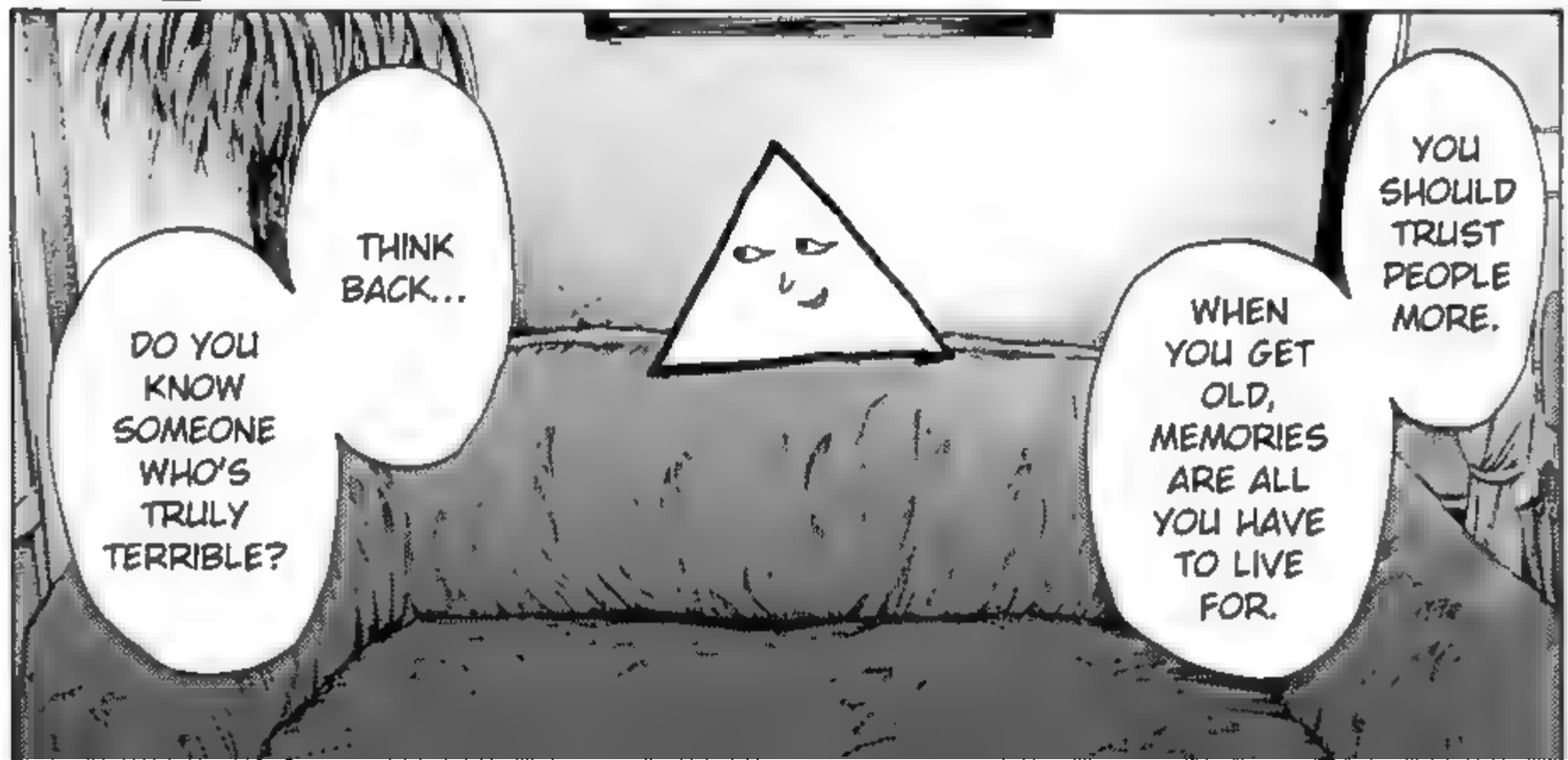


...OR
DID YOU
DO THE
BETRAY-
ING?

I WON'T
ASK FOR
DETAILS.

DID
SOMEONE
BETRAY
YOU
HORRIBLY
...

SO
WHAT
IS IT?

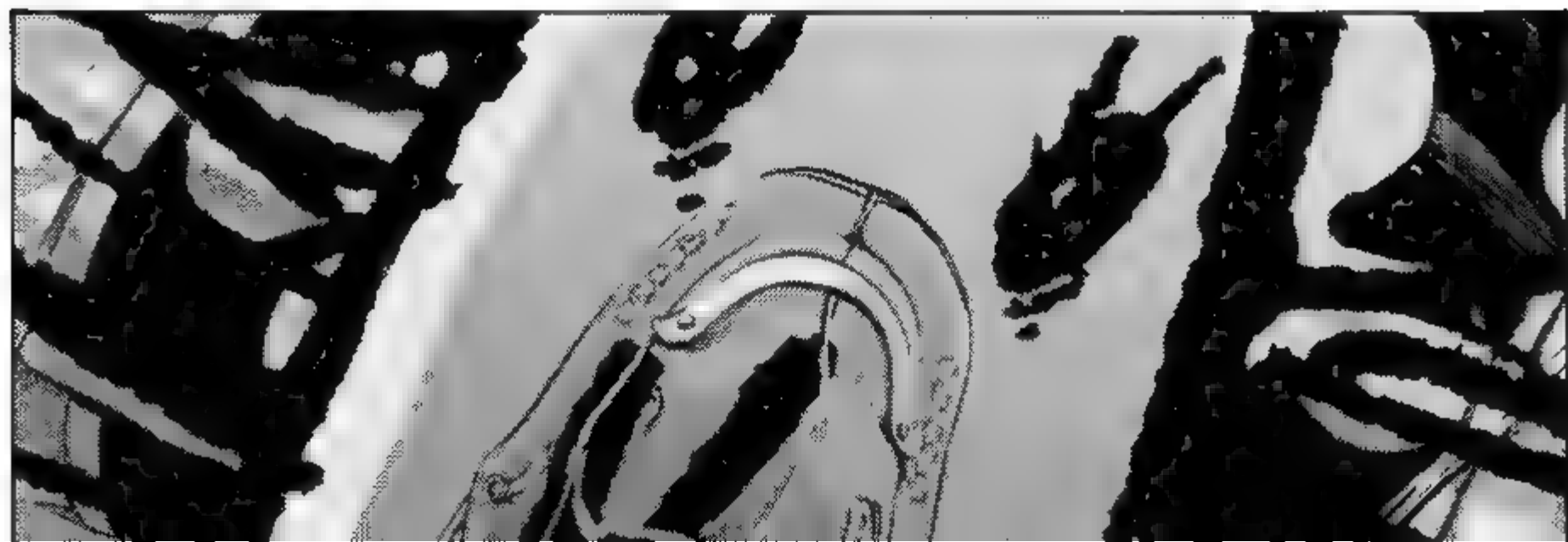


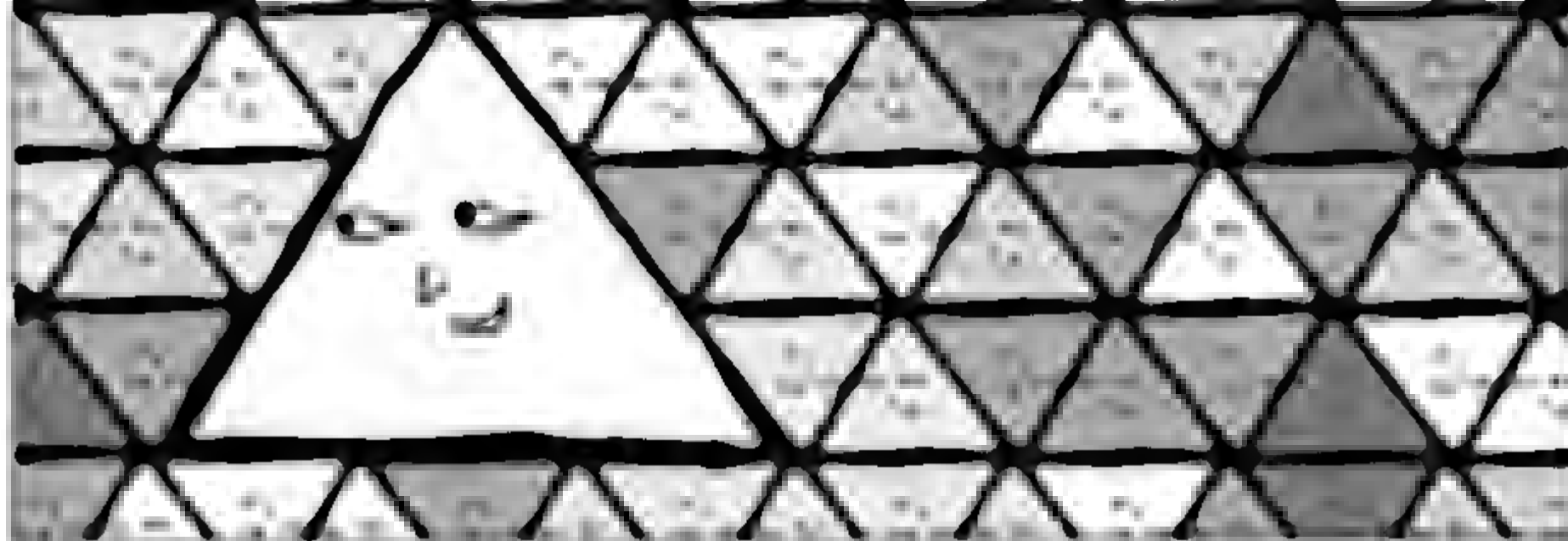
DO YOU
KNOW
SOMEONE
WHO'S
TRULY
TERRIBLE?

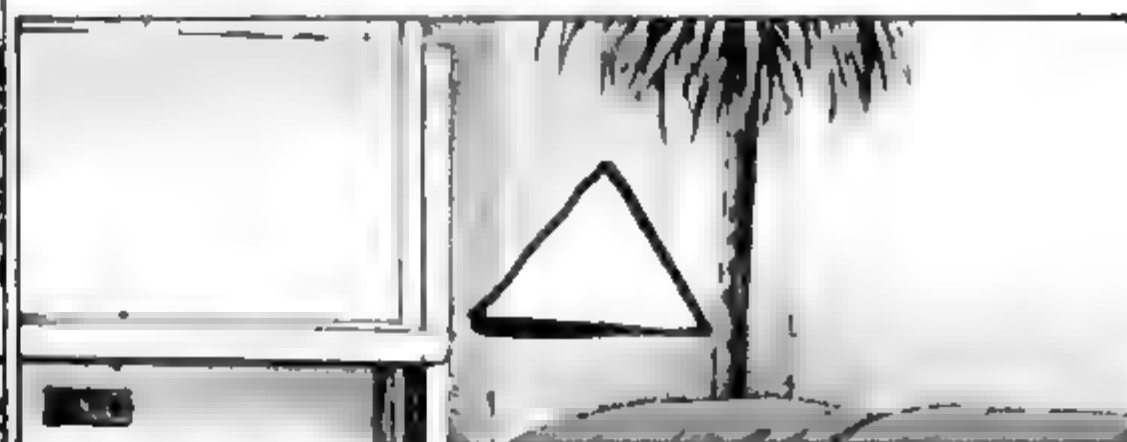
THINK
BACK...

WHEN
YOU GET
OLD,
MEMORIES
ARE ALL
YOU HAVE
TO LIVE
FOR.

YOU
SHOULD
TRUST
PEOPLE
MORE.









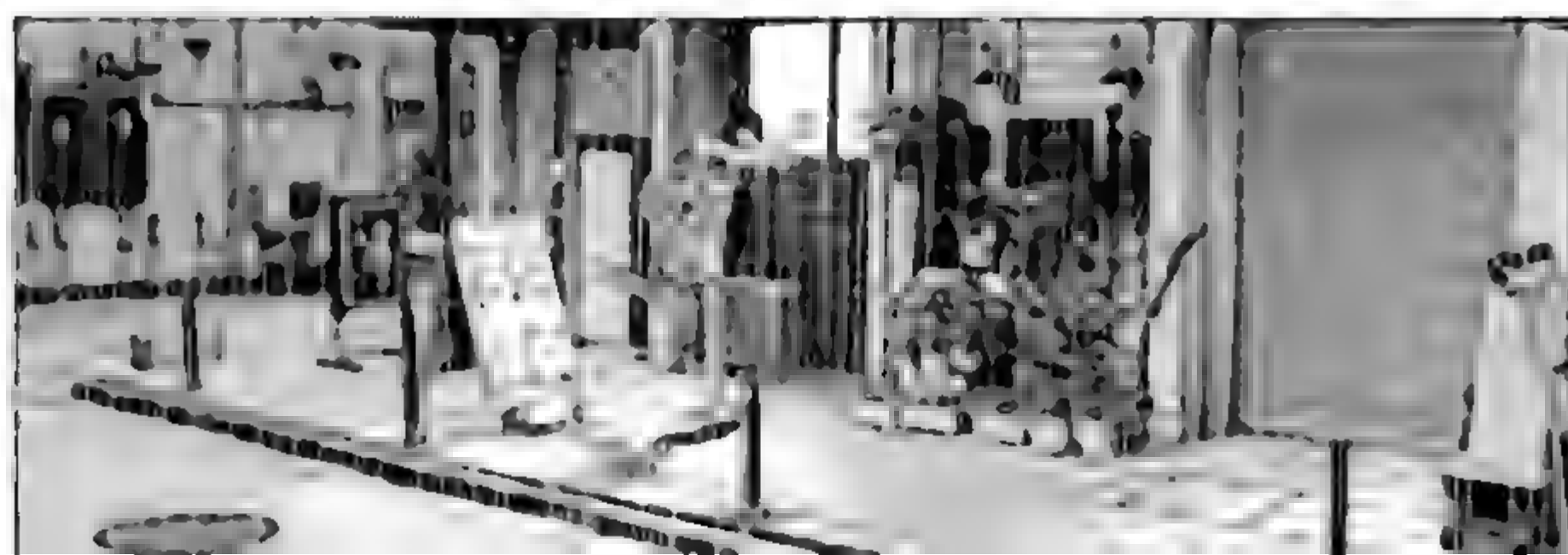
JUST
THINK
OF IT AS
BROAD-
ENING
YOUR
HORI-
ZONS.

COME
ON
NOW,
COME
ON.

CRABBY
WOMEN
ARE THE
WORST.

...SO
SHE'S GOOD-
LOOKING, BUT
HER PERSON-
ALITY LEAVES
A BIT TO BE
DESIRED.

THAT'S
MY DAUGH-
TER.
SHE
TAKES
AFTER
ME.





THE
THINGS ARE
A LITTLE
DIFFERENT

IT'S
SCARY



NO,
I'M NOT
SURE
I CAN
DO THAT

BUT IT'S
BEEN HARD
TO GET
HERE SINCE
I HEARD
YOU QUIT.



THE
SCARY

ON THE
STREET
IT'S BEEN
A WHILE
TO FIND
LIVE
BETTER



I STOP
BY ON THE
WAY HOME
FROM WORK
PRETTY
OFTEN

IT
ME
ON



OH
DEAR,
DID YOU
FIND A
JOB?

JUST
LISTENING
TO OLD
MEN'S DIRTY
STORIES
MEANS I
CAN DRINK
FOR FREE.



YEAH
YEAH

CAN I
HAVE A
GLASS OF
WATER?

TEACHER
IN A CRAM
SCHOOL. I
CAN'T PRETEND
TO BE HEART-
BROKEN AND
HANG AROUND
FOREVER, YOU
KNOW



YEAH,
THAT'S
PUNPUN
ONODERA,
ONE OF OUR
TENANTS.

THE
YOUNG
GUY
NEXT TO
YOU, IS
HE WITH
YOU?

UM





Chapter 78



WE'VE
DEFINITELY
MET SOME-
WHERE!

MMM...

...
YOU.



I
REMEMBER.

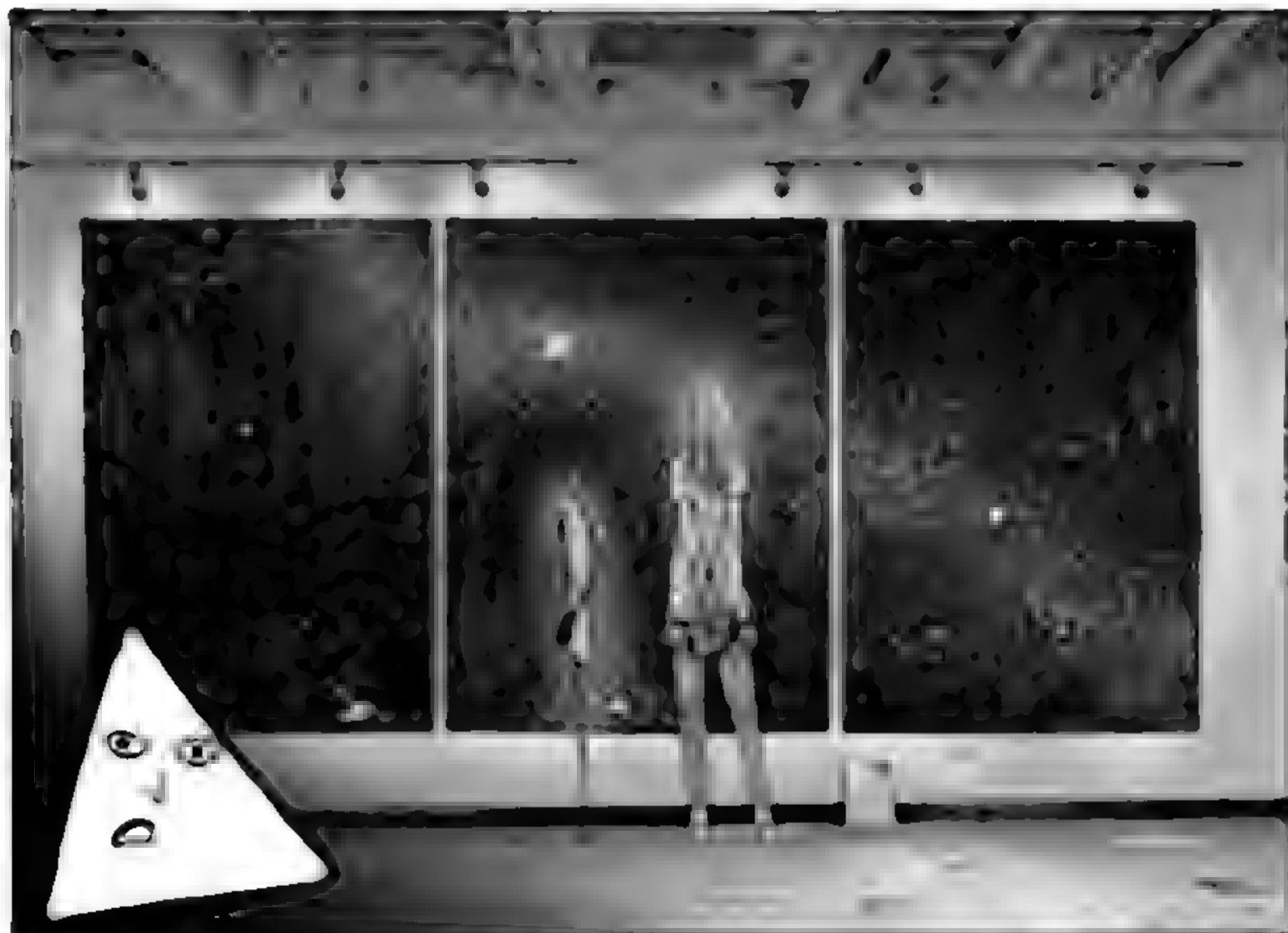
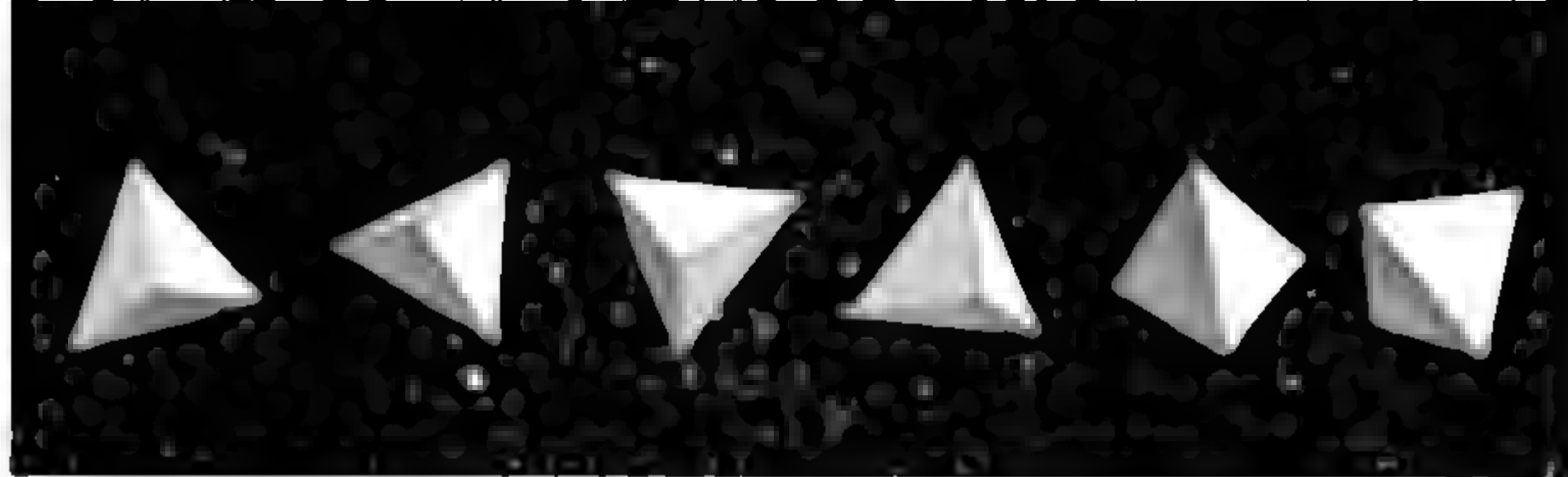
OH!



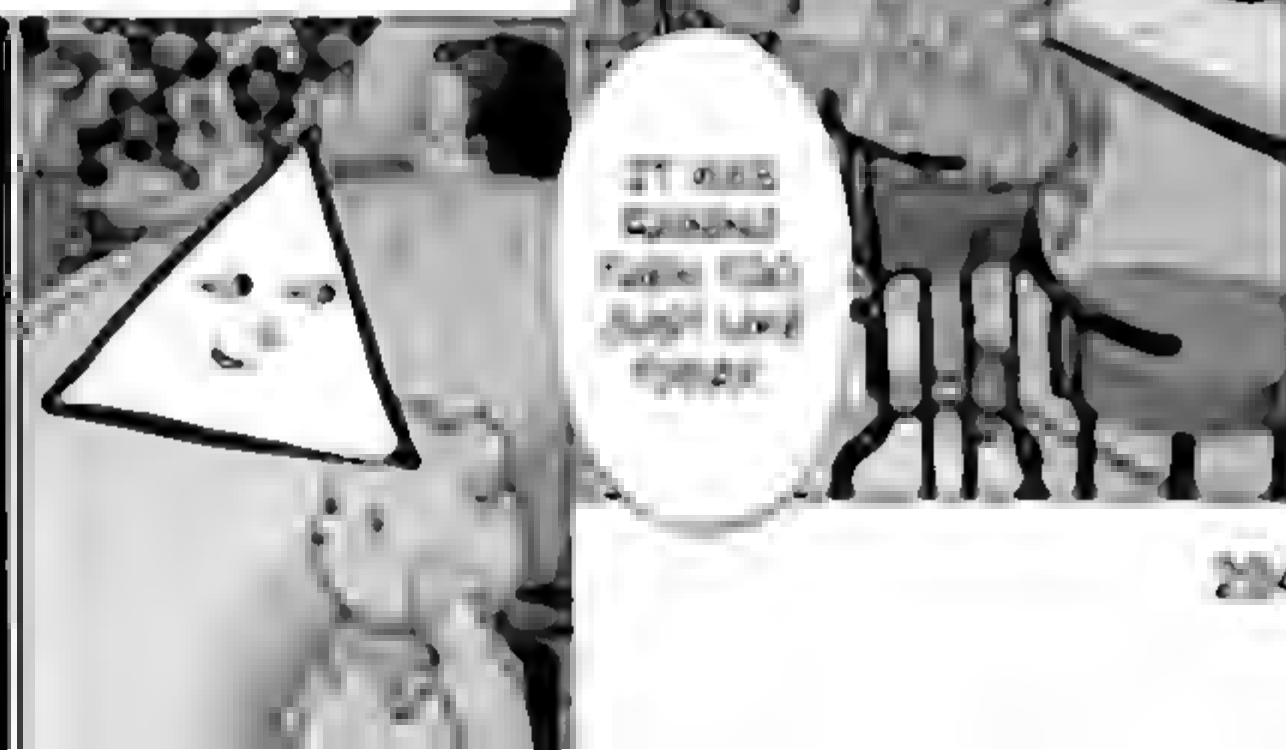
YOU
CAME WITH
AZUSA TO
SEE THAT
ART EXHIBI-
TION?!

I WAS
19, SO
THREE
YEARS
AGO?

WHEN
WAS
IT?



Penguin couldn't be bothered, so he decided to profess ignorance.





DEAR
ME.

AH,
ONCE
AGAIN I'VE
BECOME
DRUNK,
CHARMED
BY OUR PRO-
PRIETRESS'S
BEAUTY.

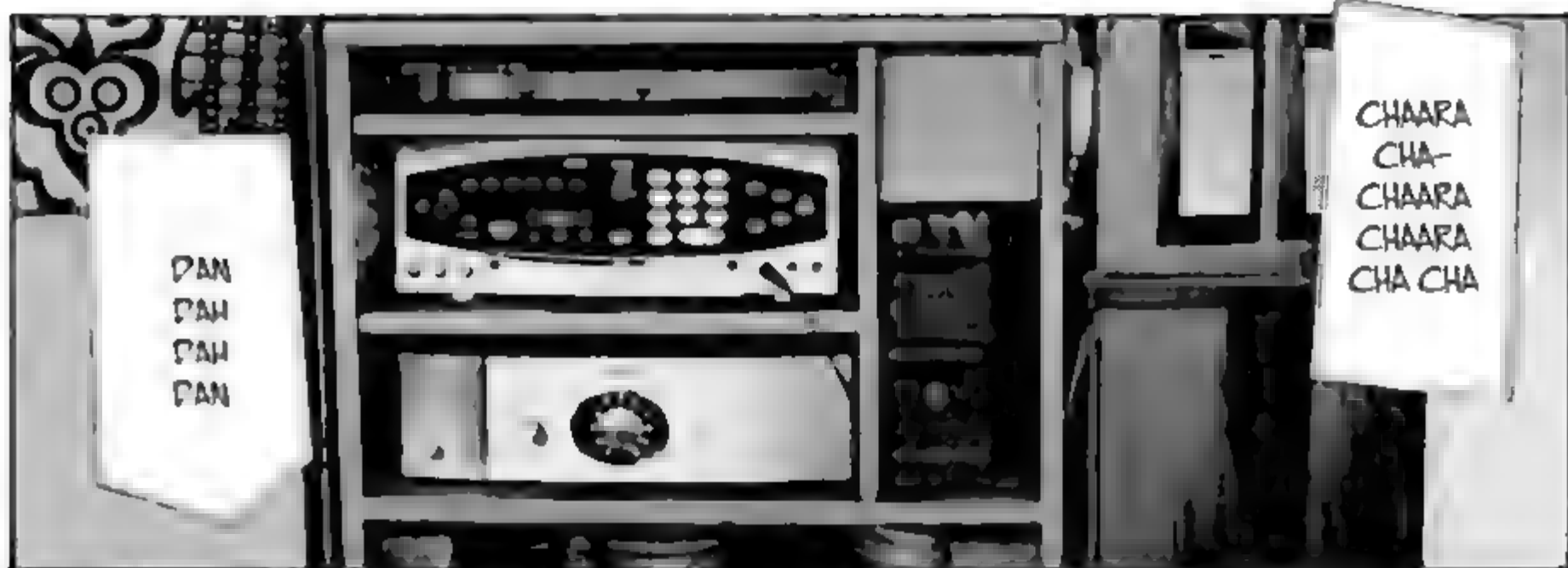
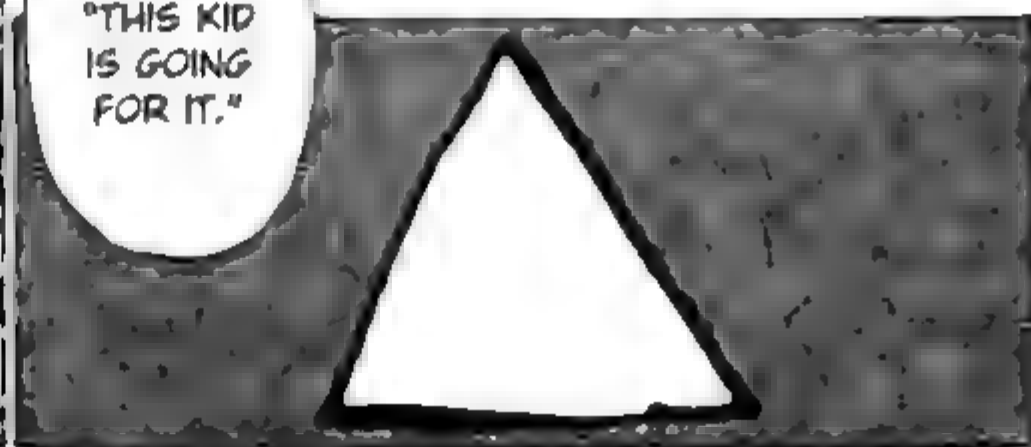
THE
FIRST
NIGHT WE
MET WAS
SOGGY
LIKE THIS
ONE.



THAT'S
RIGHT,
YEAH. I
REMEMBER
NOW.

YOUR
HAIR WAS
STICKING
UP AND
YOU WERE
WEARING A
DESIGNER
T-SHIRT.

I
THOUGHT,
"THIS KID
IS GOING
FOR IT."



DAN
DAN
DAN
DAN

CHAARA
CHA-
CHAARA
CHAARA
CHA CHA



PLEASE
LISTEN
TO MY
RENDITION
OF
"IZAYAYA"

I,
HEIROKU
SHISHIDO,
ALTHOUGH
INCOMPE-
TENT, WILL
ATTEMPT
A SONG.

GO,
HEIRO!



AZUSA?

KANIE GOT
HERSELF
GAINFULLY
EMPLOYED
BEFORE ME, SO
I DON'T HAVE
MUCH OPPOR-
TUNITY TO FIND
OUT WHAT'S
UP.

OH,
BY KANIE
I MEAN THE
FAT ONE WITH
THE GLASSES
AZUSA'S
SISTER.

I'M SURE
SHE'S FINE. I
HAVEN'T SEEN
HER RECENTLY,
BUT SHE
MOVED OUT
ON HER OWN
WHEN SHE
STARTED
COLLEGE.



...HAVE
A
DRINK.

IF
YOU
DON'T
DISLIKE
ME



..SO I'M
SURE SHE'S
MAKING UP
FOR IT EVERY
NIGHT. IT'S A
RECIPE FOR
TROUBLE.

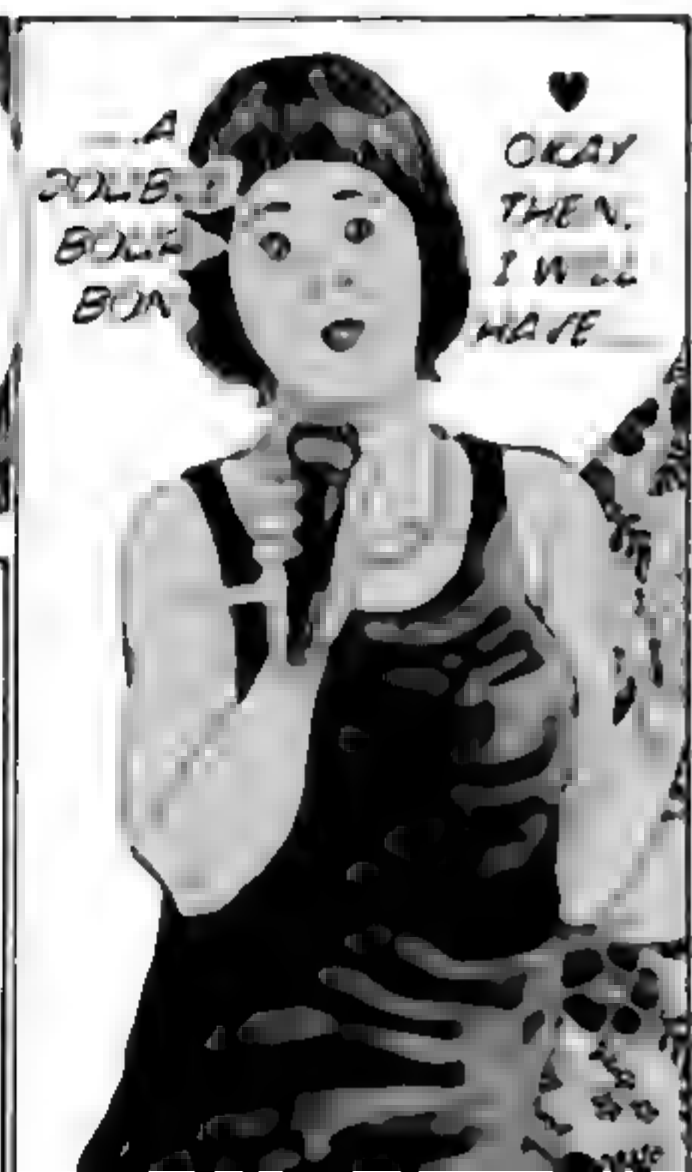
SHE
DIDN'T
LOOSE
HER
VIRGINITY
ON
SCHED-
ULE.

OH YEAH,
SHE DID SAY
AZUSA GOT
A BOYFRIEND
RIGHT AFTER
SHE STARTED
COLLEGE.



LET
ALONE
YOUR
LIFE
STORY

I'M NOT
DUMB
ENOUGH
TO ASK
YOUR
NAME



A
DOLB.
BOLB
BOLB

OKAY
THEN.
I WILL
HAVE

...SIT
NEXT TO
EACH
OTHER
IN AN
IZAKAYA.

♥
THAT'S
RIGHT,
WE JUST
HAPPENED
TO...

I HEARD
THINGS
DIDN'T
WORK OUT
FOR YOU
GUYS THAT
NIGHT.

IT
WAS SO
OBVIOUS
YOU
WERE
BOTH
VIRGINS

THE TWO
OF YOU
WERE SO
FIDGETY.
IT WAS
ANNOY-
ING.

MALE
VIRGINS
ARE SO
SELF-
ABSORBED
AND
IRRITATING

♥♥
NO ART, NO
FLOWERS,
NO SONGS,
NO FANCY
WORDS...

THEY'RE
SO SURE
THEY
KNOW
EVERY-
THING.

THERE'S
NO WAY A
GUY WHO JUST
SPOUTS HIS
OWN OPINIONS
AND DOESN'T
LISTEN TO ANY-
ONE CAN GET
A GIRL.

...OR
STYLE
IN THIS
IZAKAYA.



HOW
BADLY DID
YOU SCREW
UP THAT YOU
COULDN'T
GET LAID
UNDER THOSE
CONDITIONS?

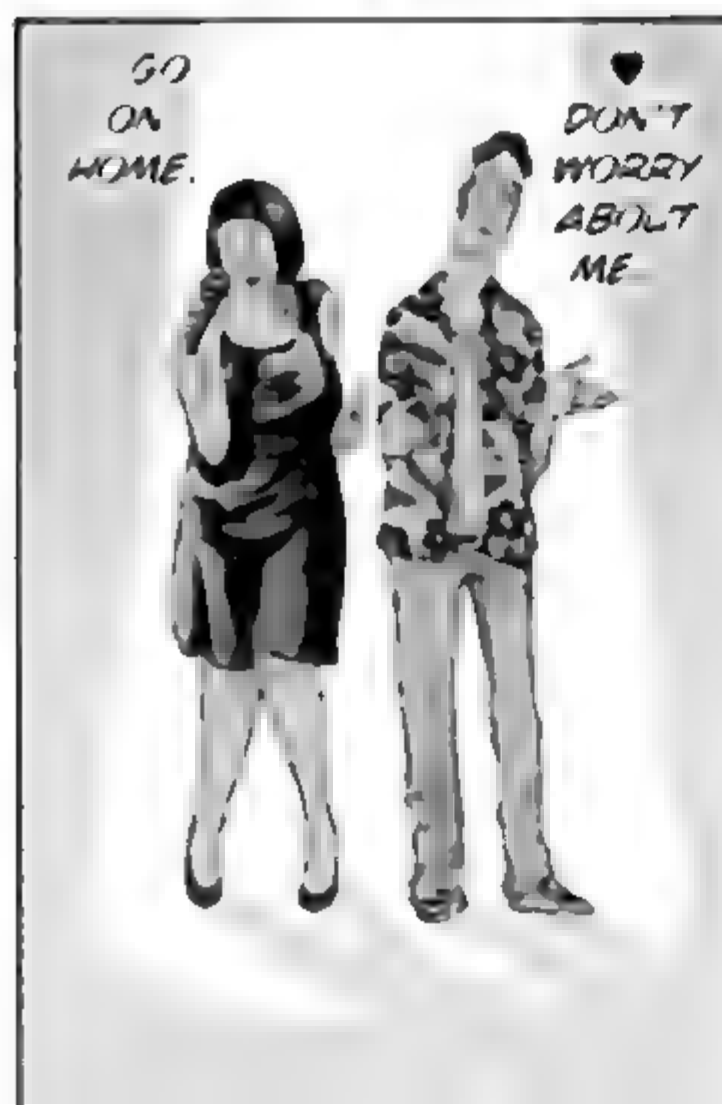
HAVING
SAID THAT,
AZUSA WAS
PRETTY
BLUMMED
AFTERWARD.

I THINK
SHE WAS
PRETTY
INTO
YOU.



♥
OKAY,
STAY
UNTIL IT
STOPS,
I'LL JUST
DRINK
ALONE.

♥
IF WE GO
OUTSIDE,
IT WILL BE
RAINING.
IT WAS
SPRINKLING
BEFORE...



GO
ON
HOME.

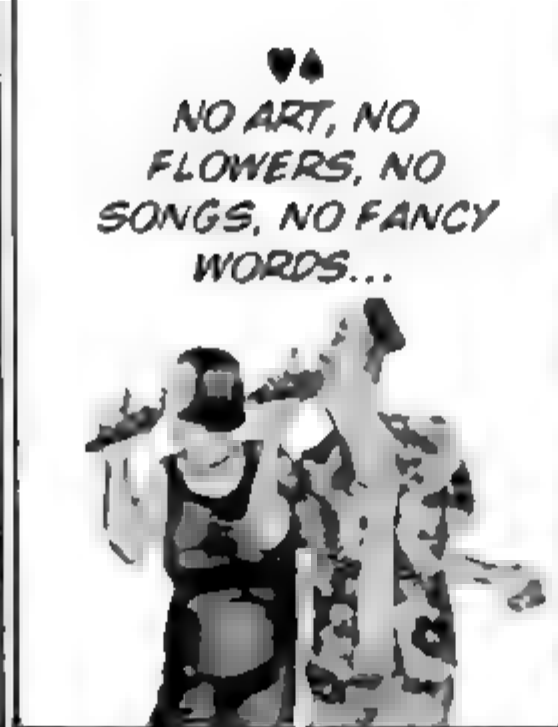
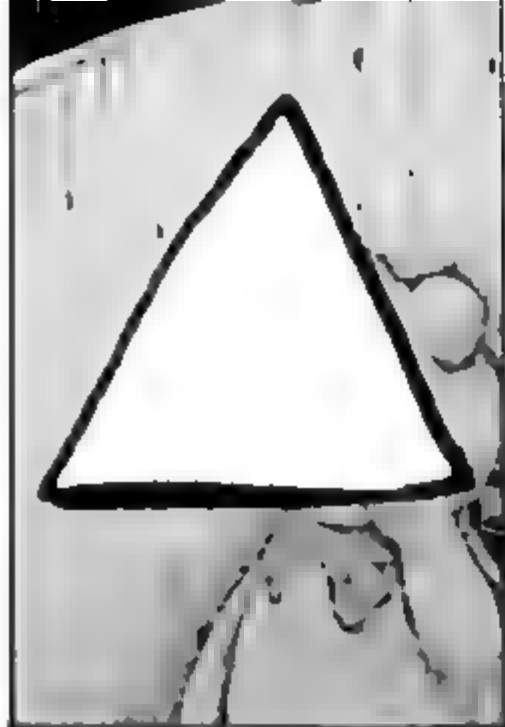
♥
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
ME



♥
THEN
I'M HERE
TILL THE
MORNING.



I'VE MET AN
UNFORTUNATE
WOMAN.

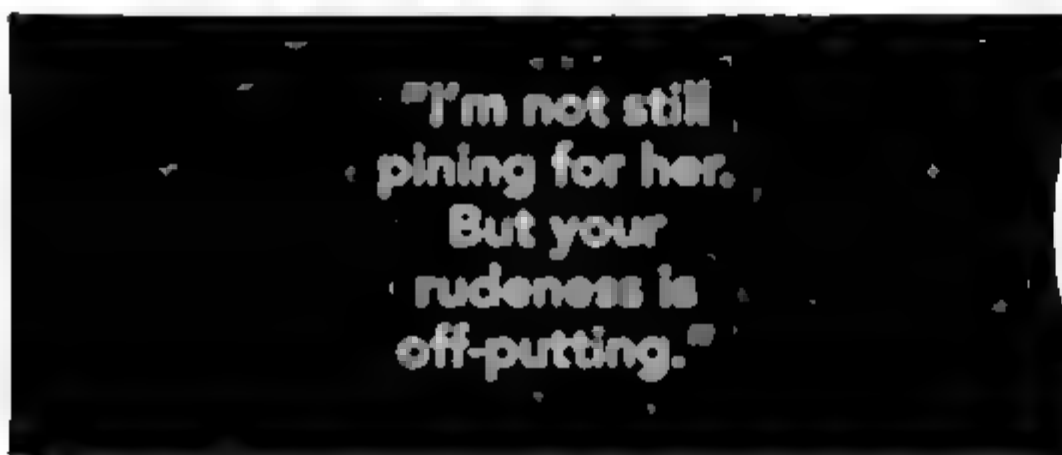


♥♥
NO ART, NO
FLOWERS, NO
SONGS, NO FANCY
WORDS...



OH
...
...
SORRY.

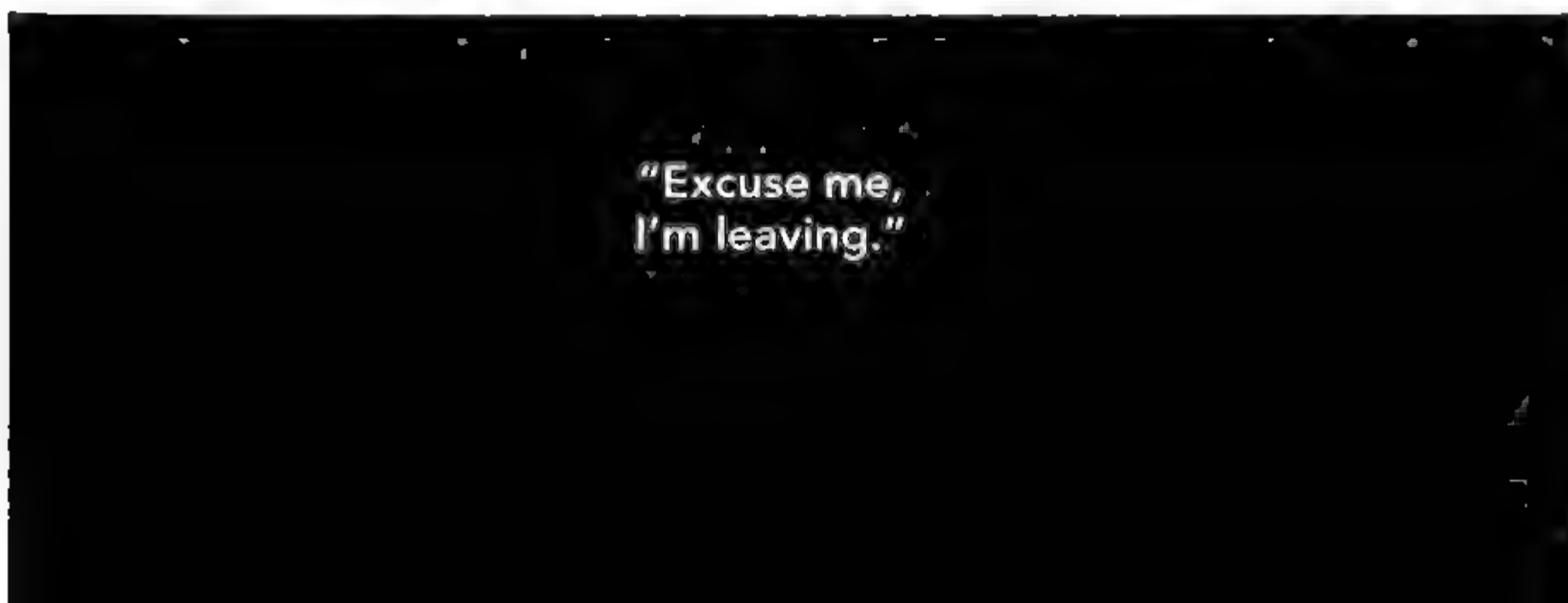
ARE
YOU NOT
OVER
AZUSA
YET?



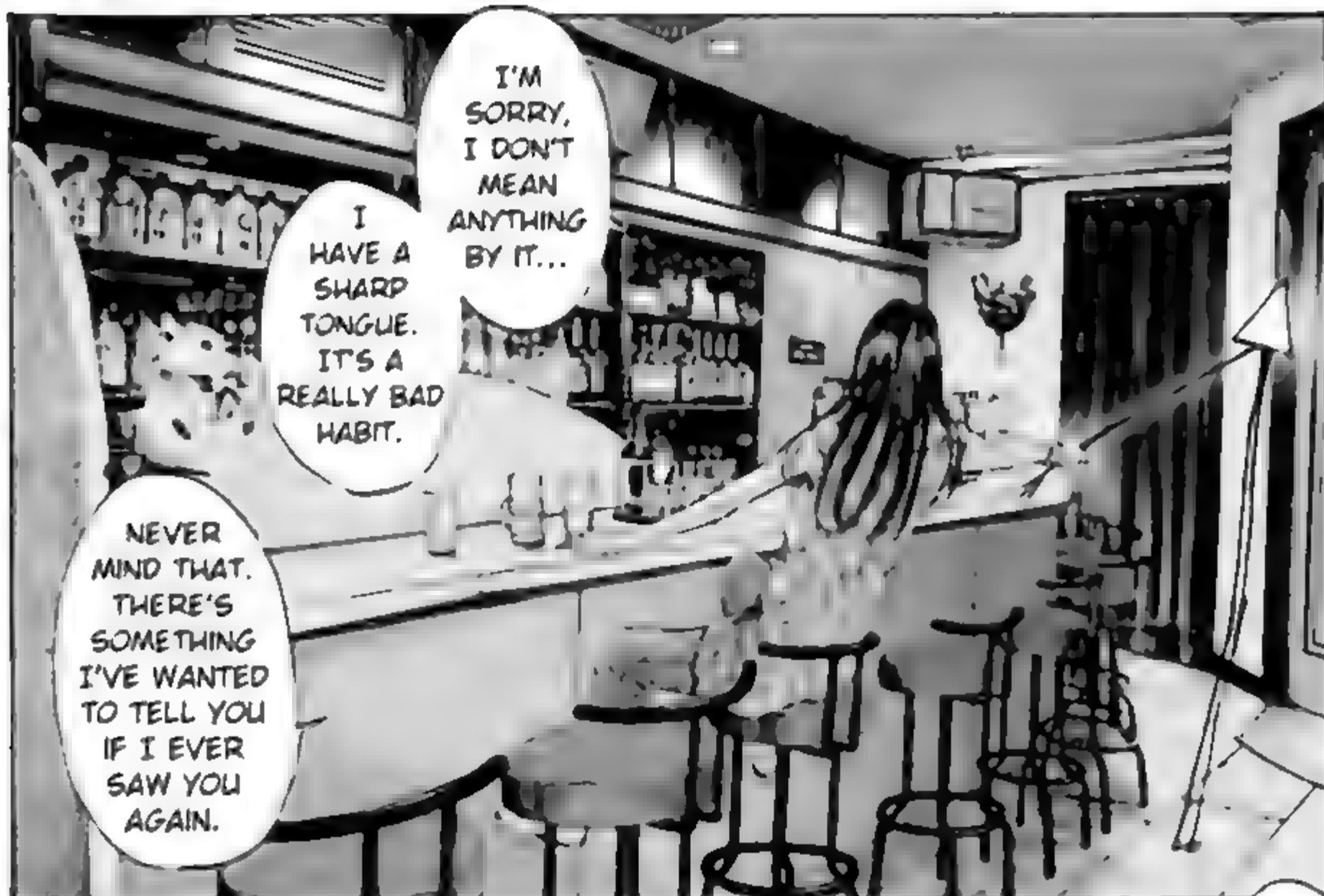
"I'm not still
pining for her.
But your
rudeness is
off-putting."



...OR
STYLE
IN THIS
IZAKAYA.

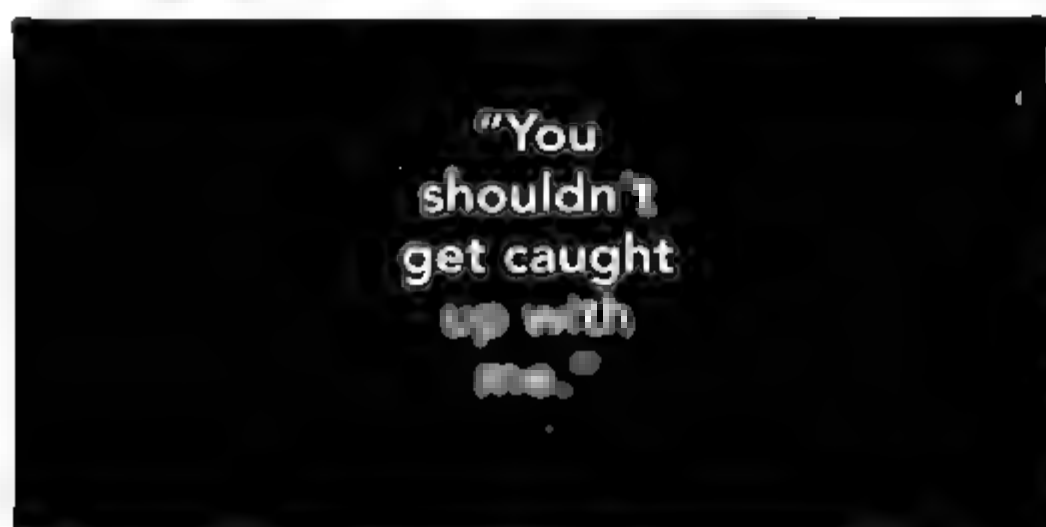
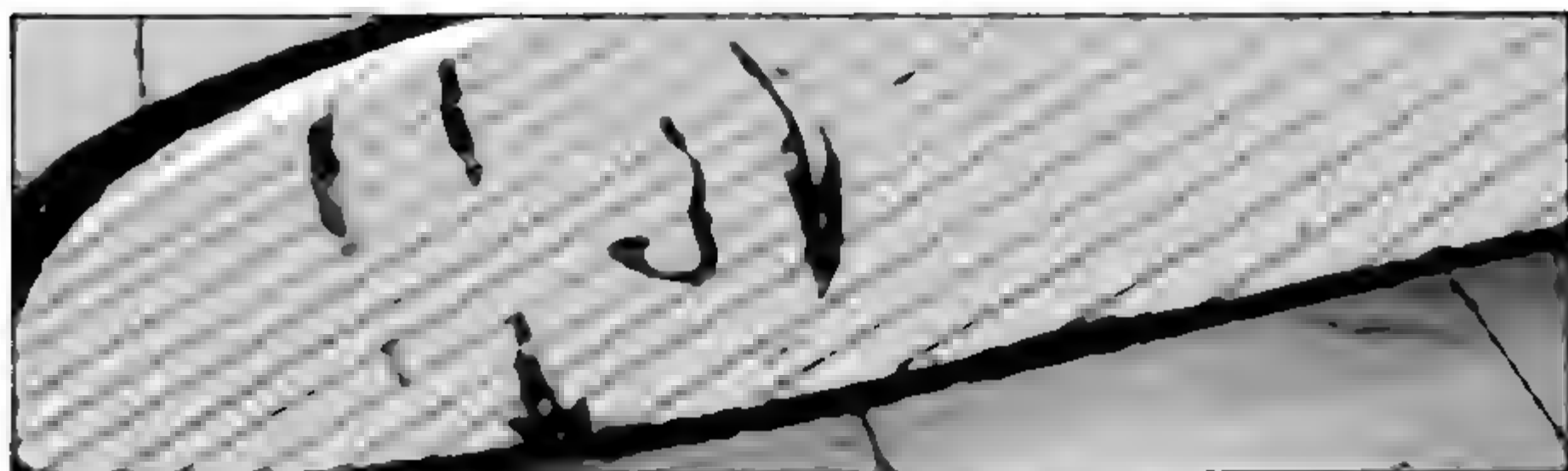


"Excuse me,
I'm leaving."









OH
SEE?
WAT
A PAIN
IN THE
ASS

CAN'T
YOU
HELD
YOUR
LIQUOR?

"No, no, not to worry, I'm not drunk at all... By the way, Nanjo, is it okay if I tug your nipple?"



"Can you please not tell him that when he found a girlfriend, I truly hoped she was ugly?"

"I don't dislike Mimura..."

"...and I'm not a virgin, so can you not make fun of me, please?"

"I'll just get cocky if you compliment me..."

"That story was just luck..."

NO WAY YOU'D GET MY SENSITIVITY, ONOTTI.

YOU ARE YOUR OWN ENEMY.



I don't know what to do. But I have to do something.

I search and I search, and I can't find what I'm looking for.

Actually I'm a demon sent from Geldark, the god of hell. Oh, that's a lie.

So I told you it's dangerous to be around me...

PUNPUN, WHO'S NIMURA?

NIMURA?

HEY, MR. SHISHIDO, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS KID LIVES?

ACTUALLY, I'M PRETTY WASTED TOO.

DO YOU WANT TO GO LIE DOWN THERE? HELLO.

PUNPUN, HEY...

That's terrible, isn't it? Hee hee.

...it's oddly comforting...

Lately, when I pretend to be mentally ill...

HELLO.



Oh...

...it's
Aiko...

She's
so far
away...

Aiko is
always
just a
little
too far
away.





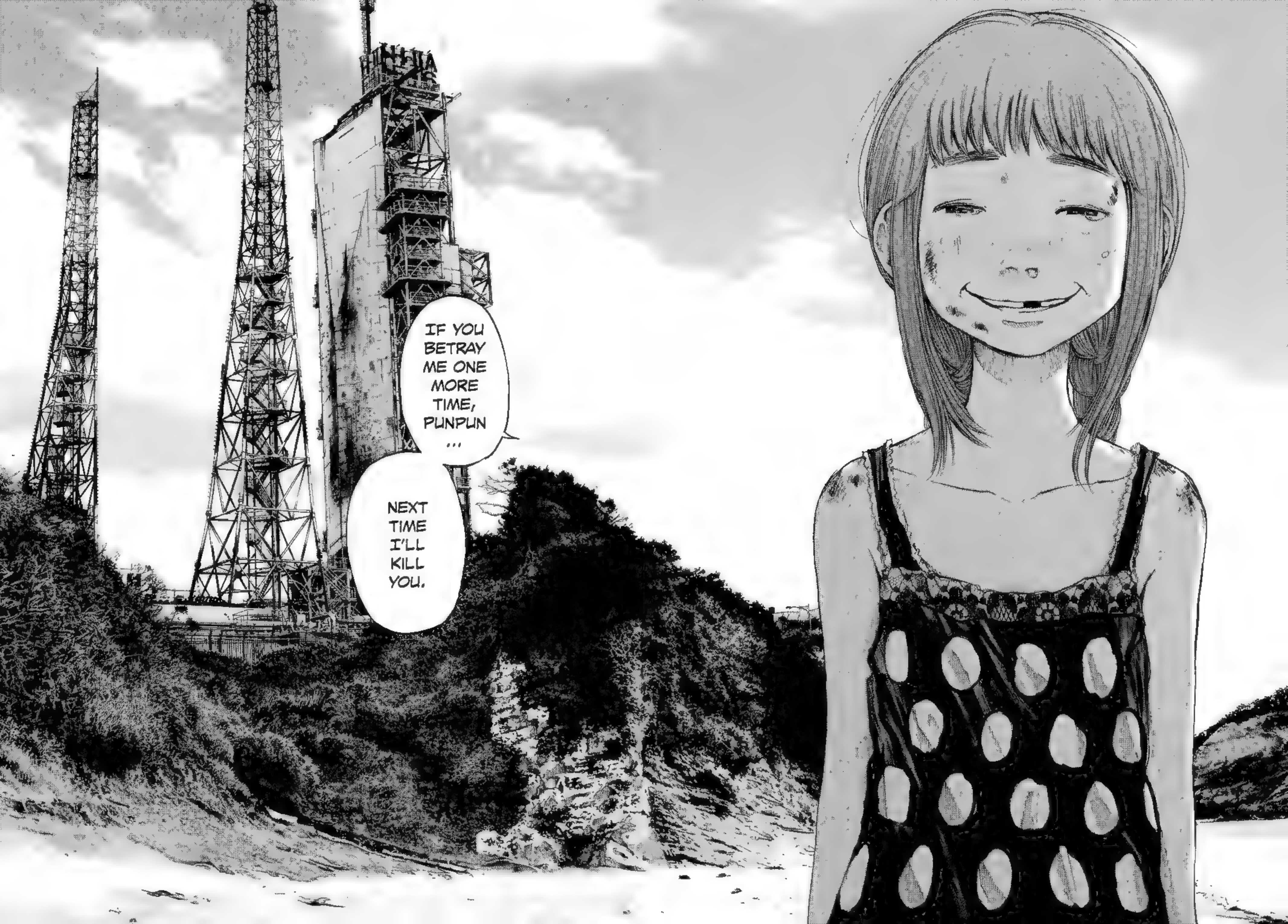
Maybe
you
cursed
me...

Hey,
Aiko...

As long as
you're not
a dream or a
hallucination...

Help
me,
Aiko.

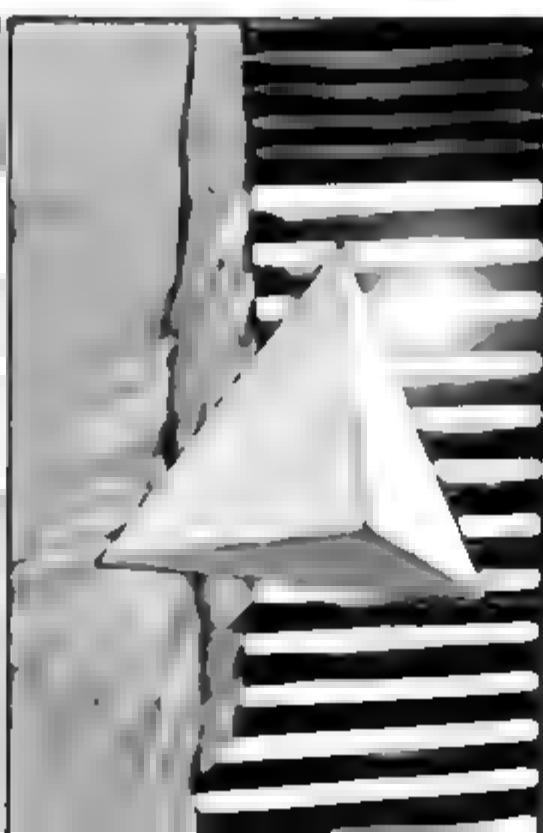
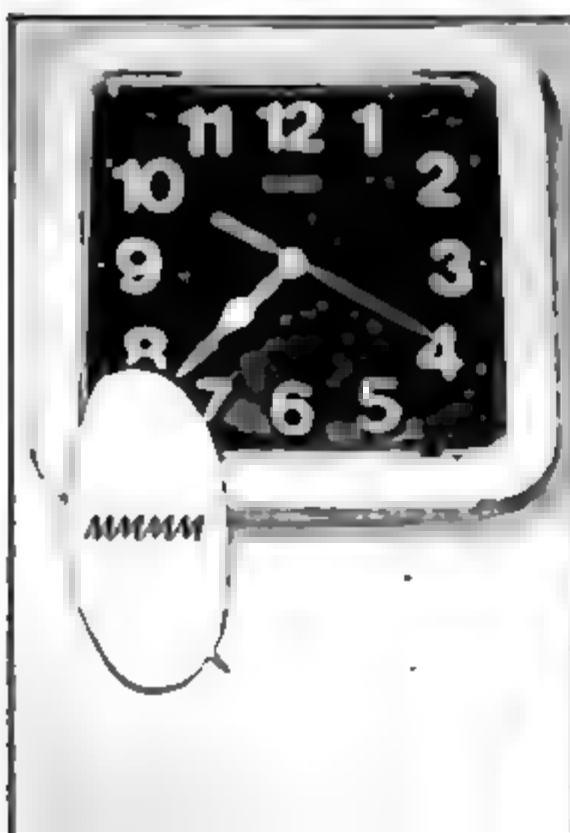
...I don't
think I can
really love
anyone
again.

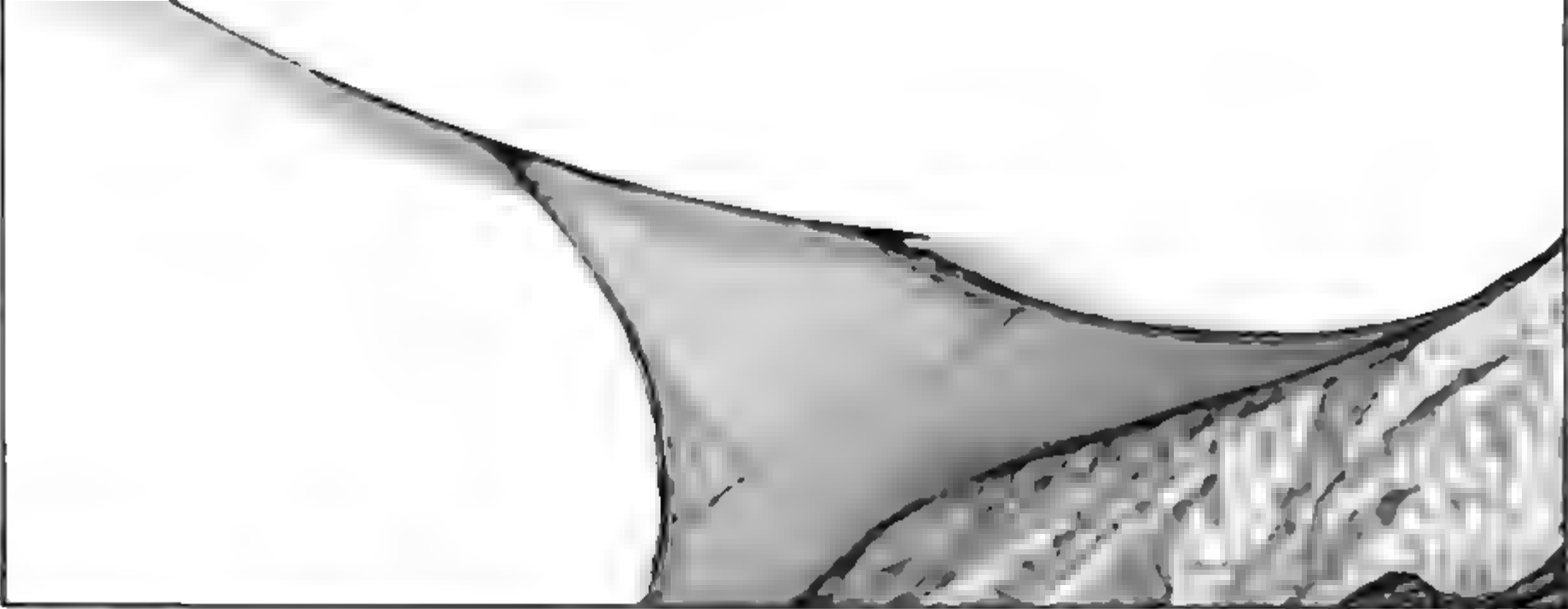


IF YOU
BETRAY
ME ONE
MORE
TIME,
PUNPUN

...

NEXT
TIME
I'LL
KILL
YOU.

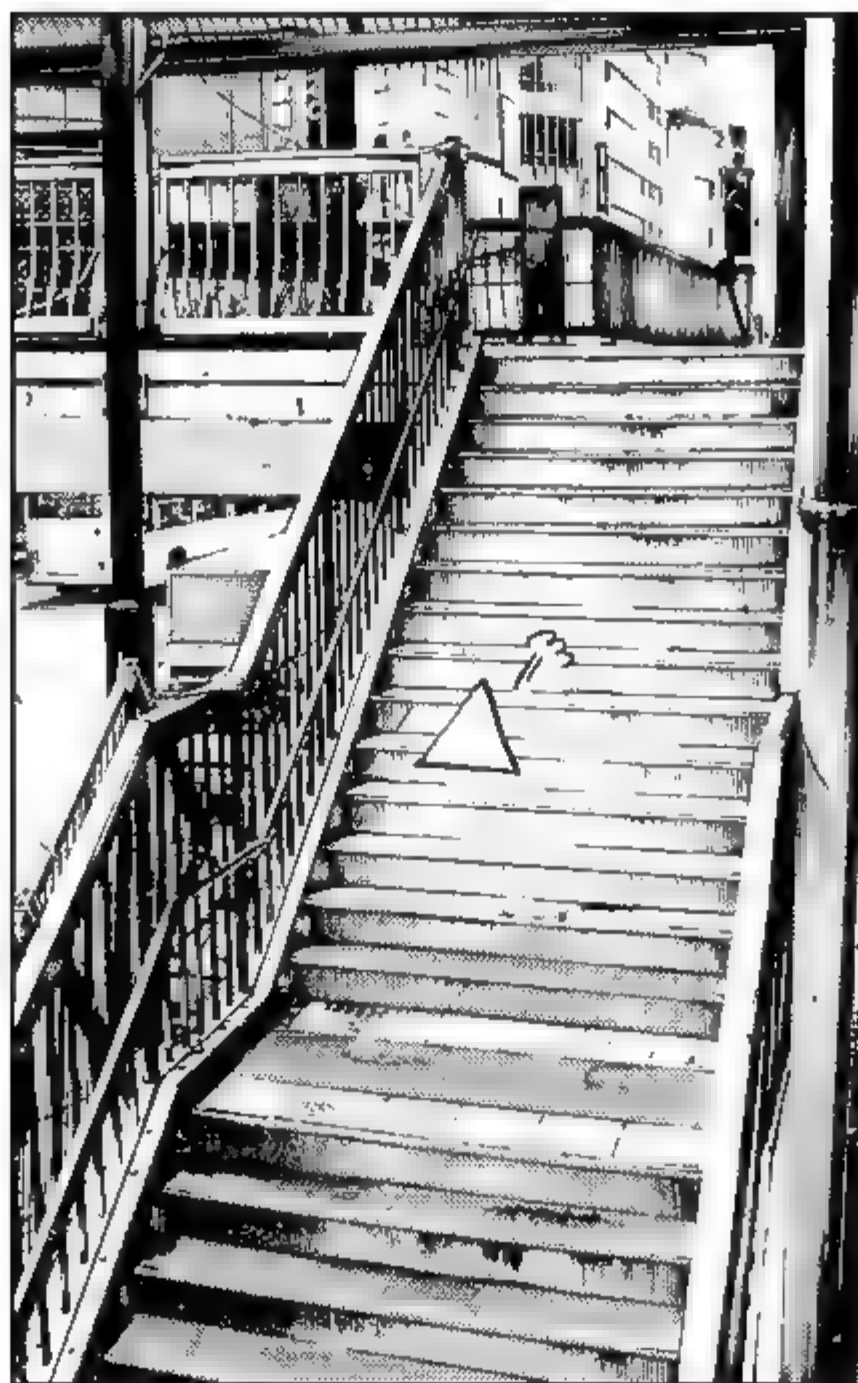




11/11/77



11/11/77



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN INIO ASANO
Part Seven

BACKGROUND ASSISTANTS	Yuki Toribuchi Satsuki Sato
CG ASSISTANT	Hisashi Saito
COOPERATION	Kumatsuto Yu Uehara



.



.





GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Part Eight

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STORY THUS FAR...

Having mistaken ulterior motive for motivation, Punpun moves out on his own. He later meets up again with the dark-haired artist with the center part. She then comes on to him big-time. Punpun is in a tizzy.

CAST OF CHARACTERS



PUNPUN ONODERA

An 18-year-old part-timer. He is invincible.



SACHI NANJO

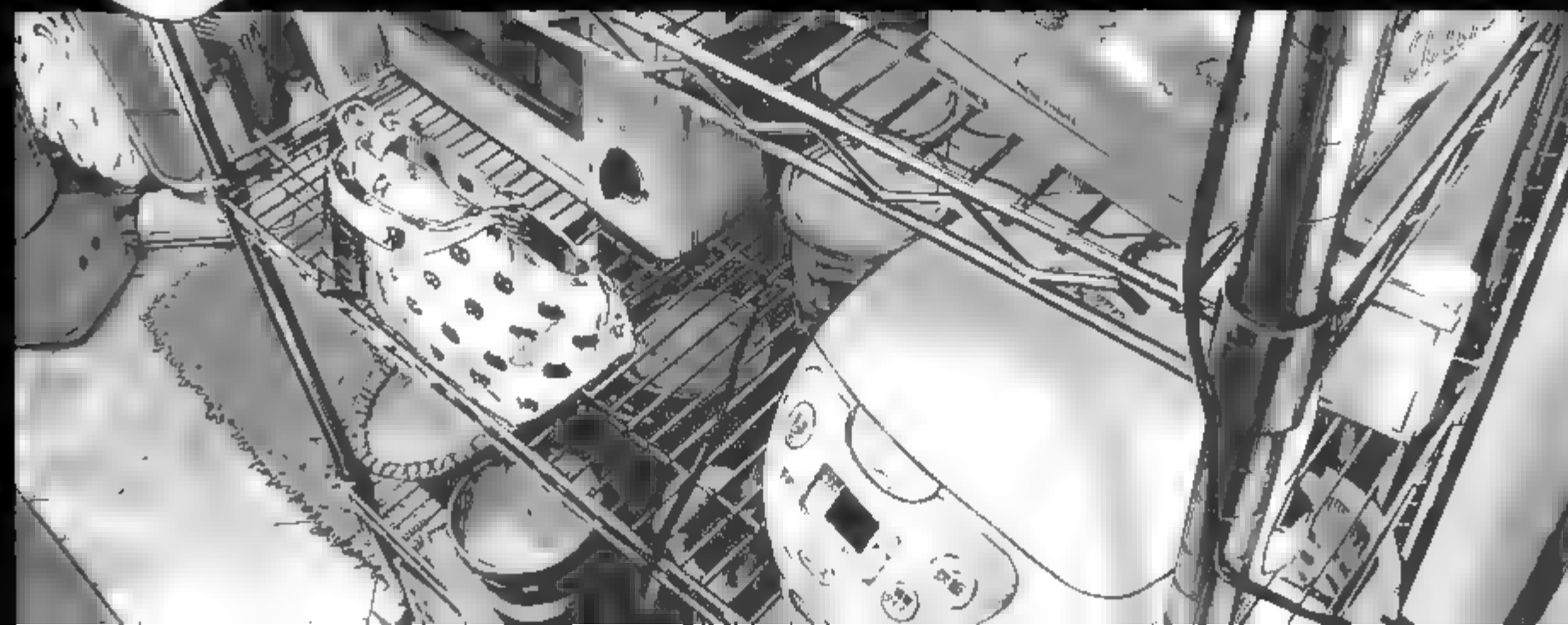
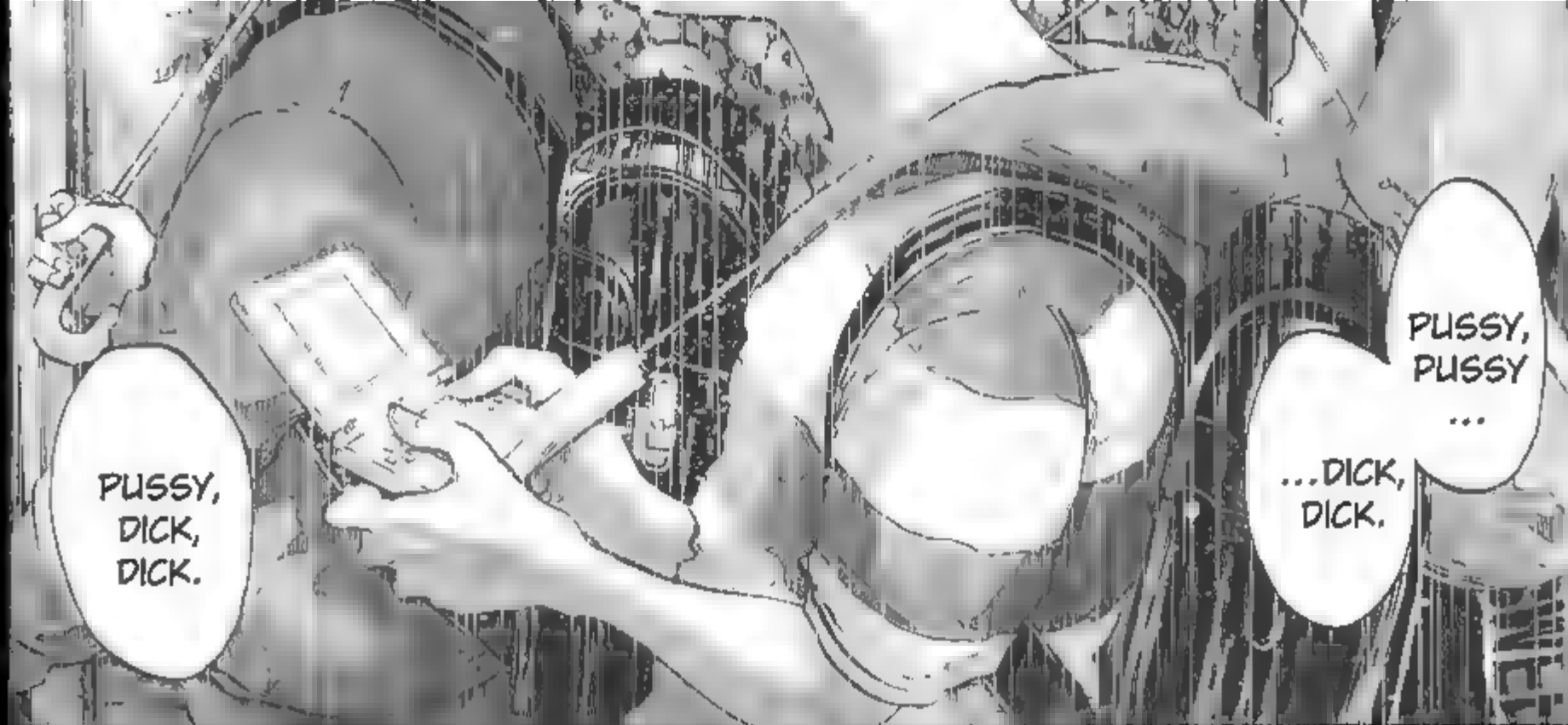
A 22-year-old cram school teacher. Her glasses are the core of her being, so she dies if they come off.

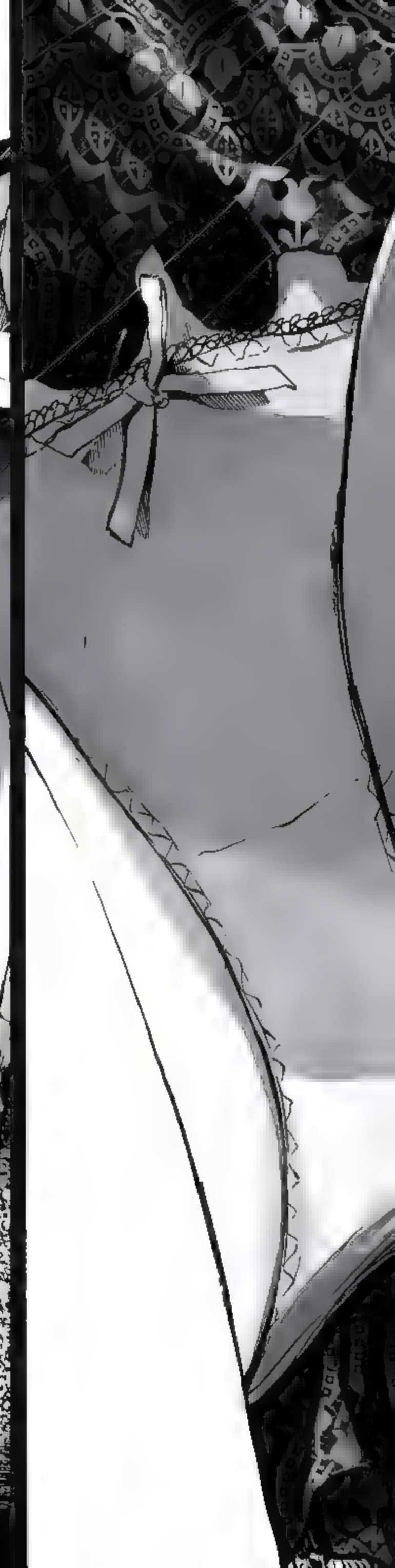


YUKINOSHIN MIMURA

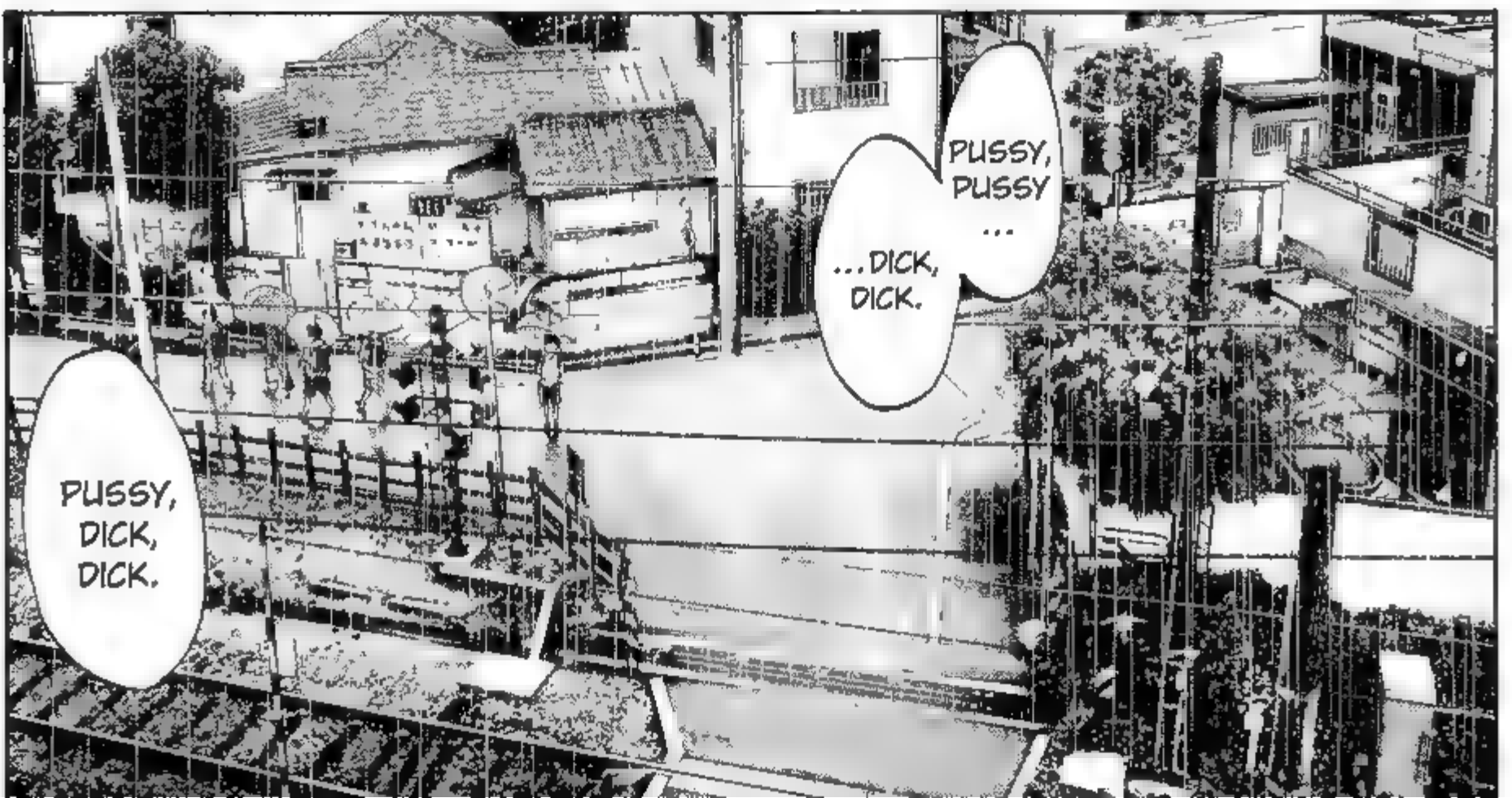
An 18-year-old college student.

"The moon will be dyed red again tonight..."

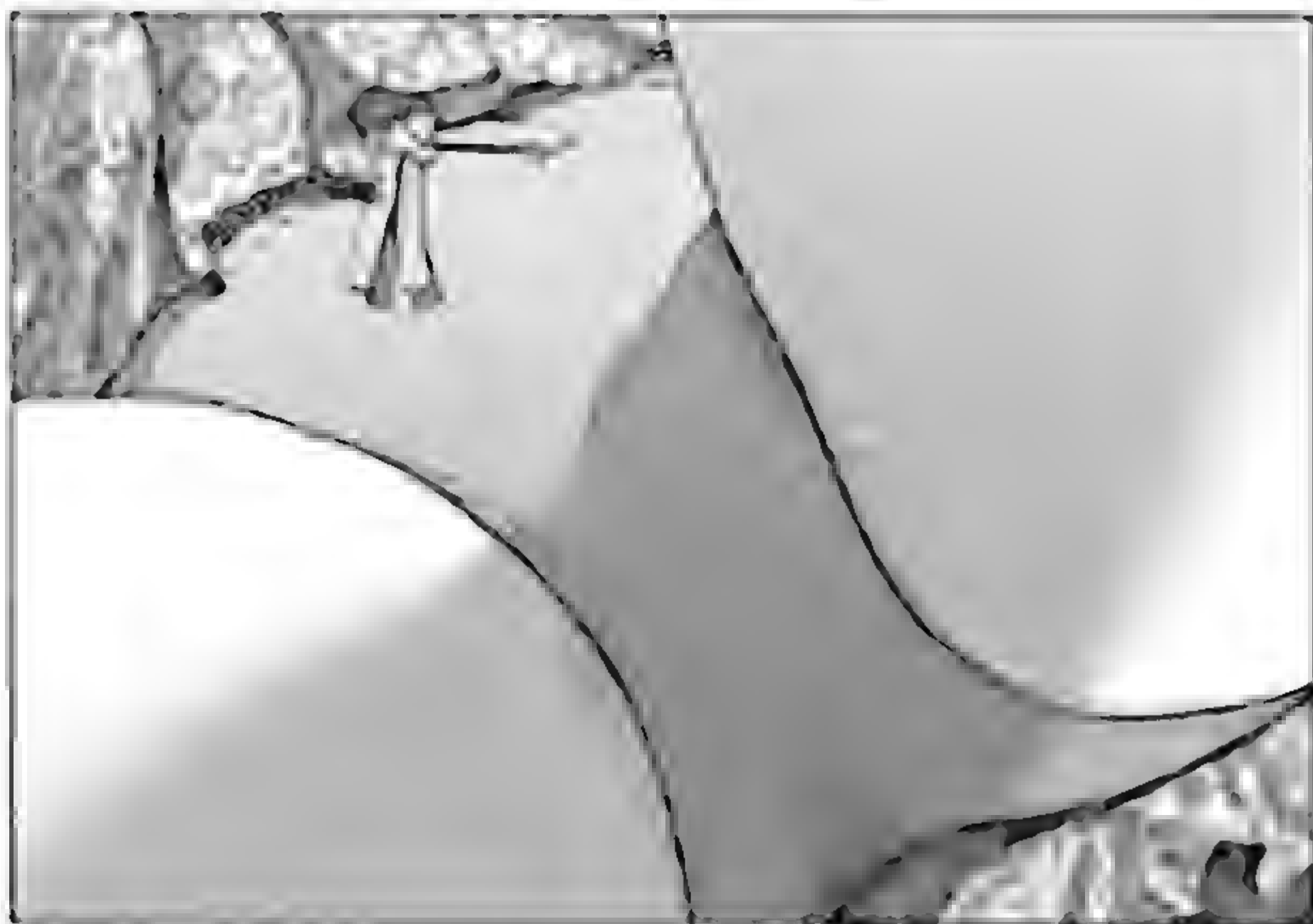
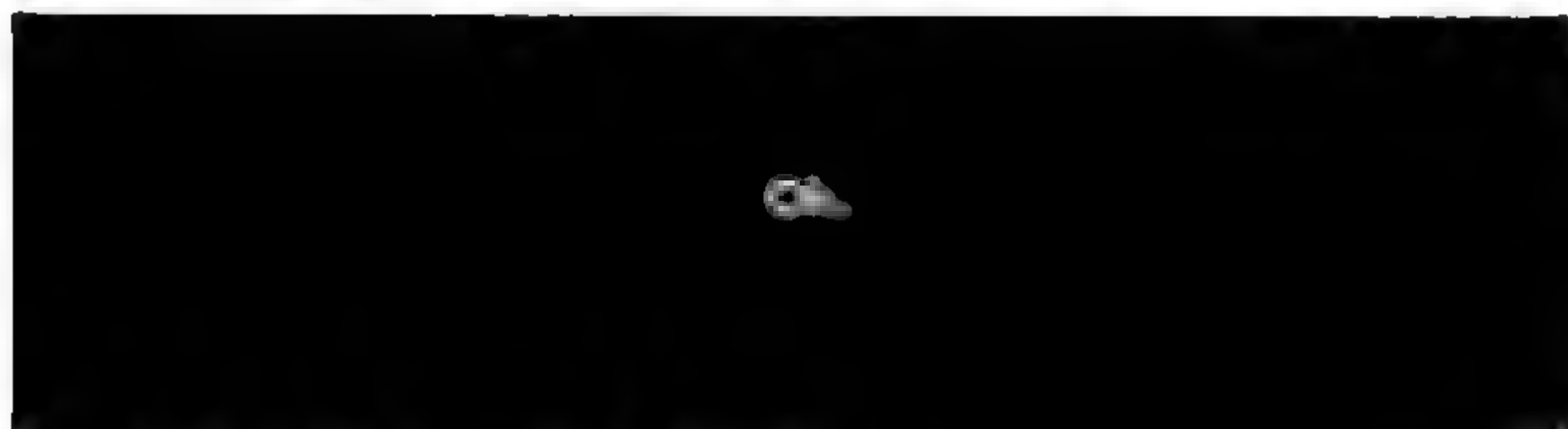


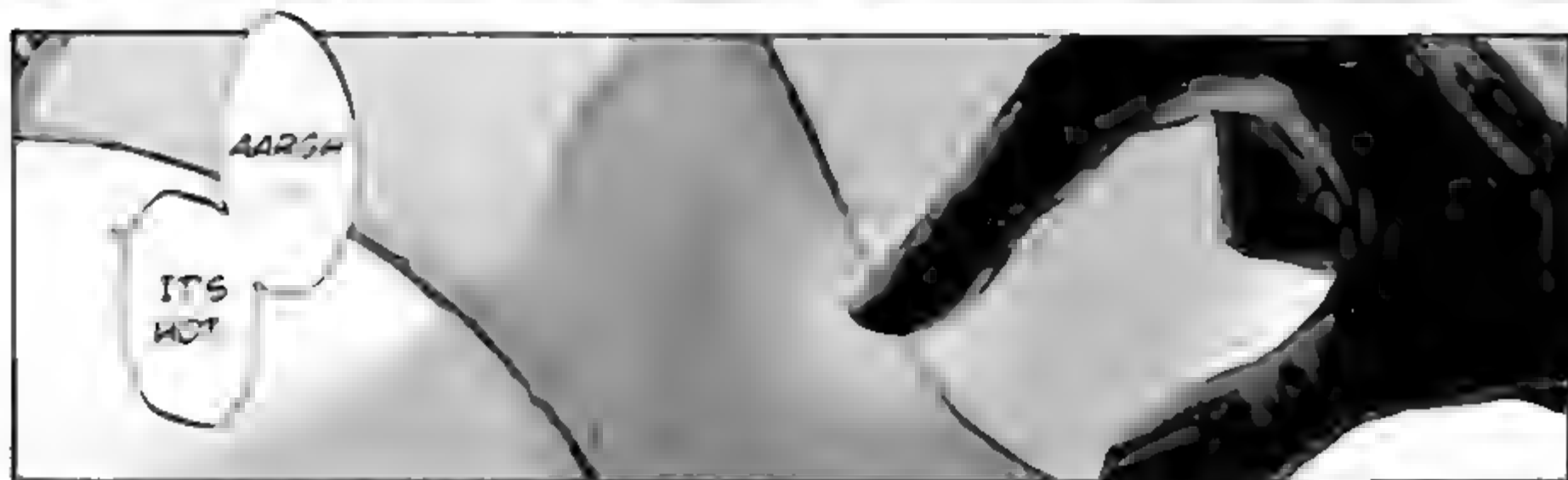














I'M
HUNG-
OVER, SO
I'M GOING
TO GO
TAKE A
SHOWER

...BUT
THEN I'LL
MAKE
BREAKFAST.
DO YOU
WANT TO
STAY?



YOU
UP?



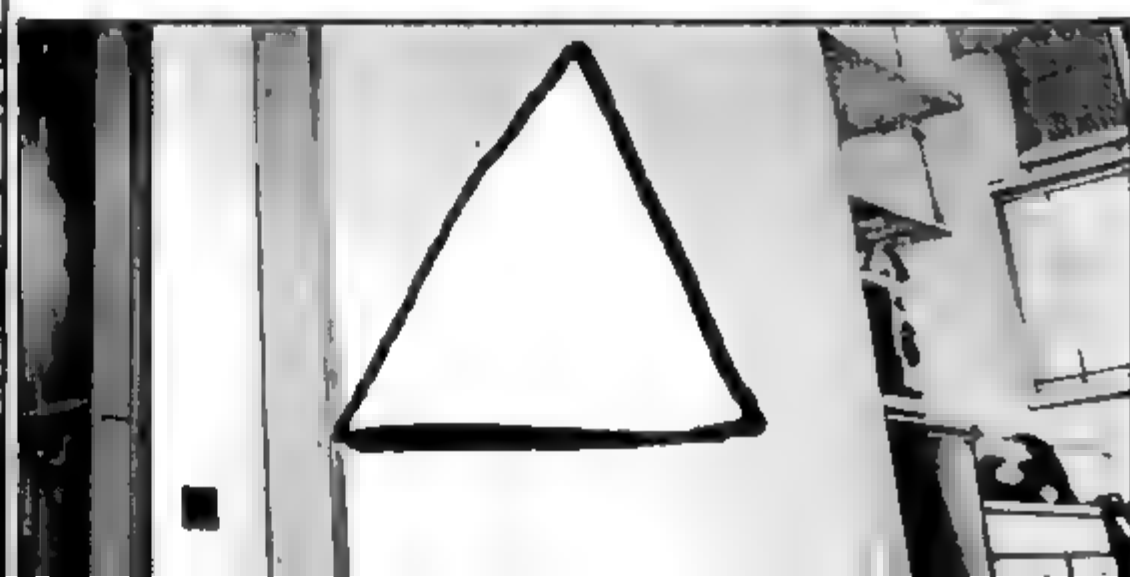
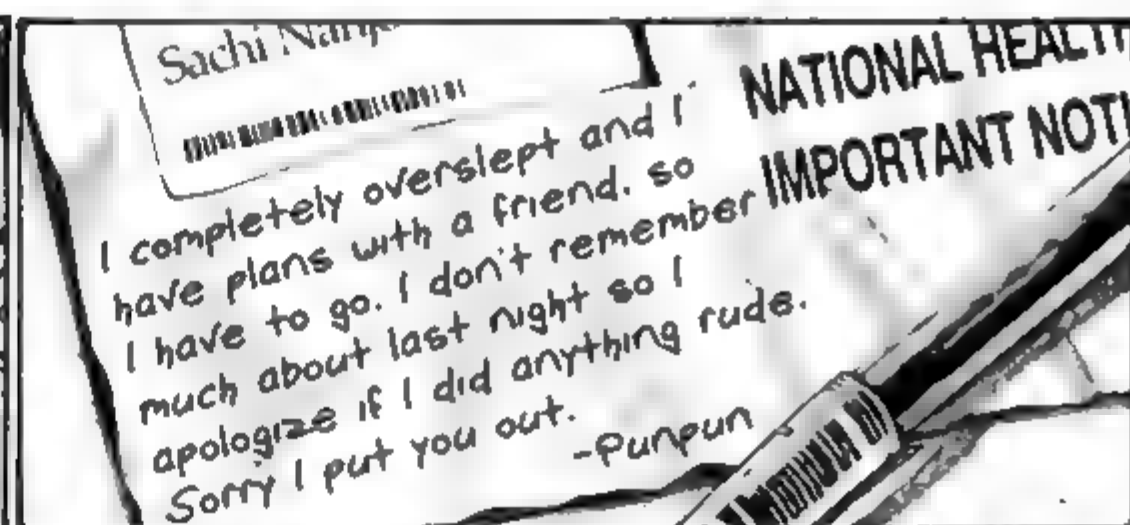
PUNPUN.



HOW
CAN HE
CRASH
THAT
HARD IN
SOMEONE
ELSE'S
BED?

HE'S A
REST-
LESS
SLEEPER,
THIS ONE.









Pumpkin
told
another
stupid lie.

And
just
like
that...



They
should
die, no
excuses.

Liars
are
bad.

Why did
Punpun have so
much trouble
relating to
other people?

Time to
show
us your
sense
of
justice.

Hey,
hot
stuff!



Why is
everyone
looking so
relaxed and
leaving me
alone?
Idiots.

People
like me
should
just hurry
up and
get killed.



No,
stop that
now.

...would
Punpun have to
keep obsessing
over the same
thing, over and
over, before he
was satisfied?

How
many
times...

The last
few
months...



He
was a
natural-
born
idiot,
after
all.



...any-
more?

Who
even
cared...

That's
right.

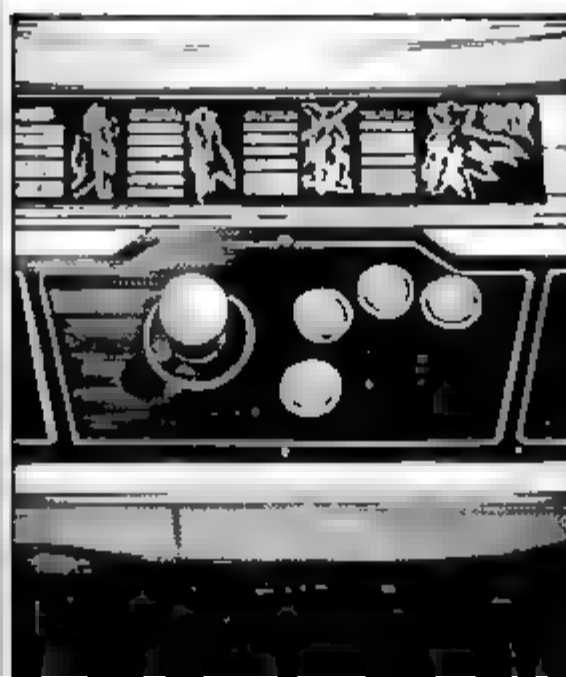


...he
would
find
Aiko
today.

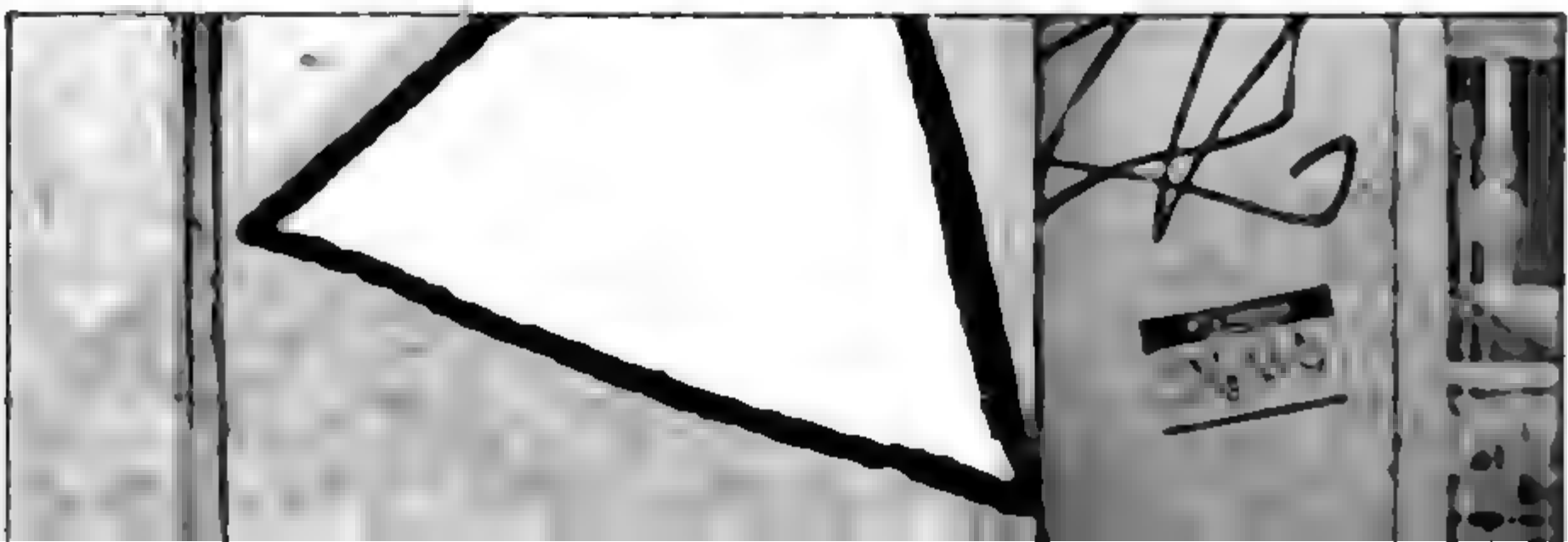
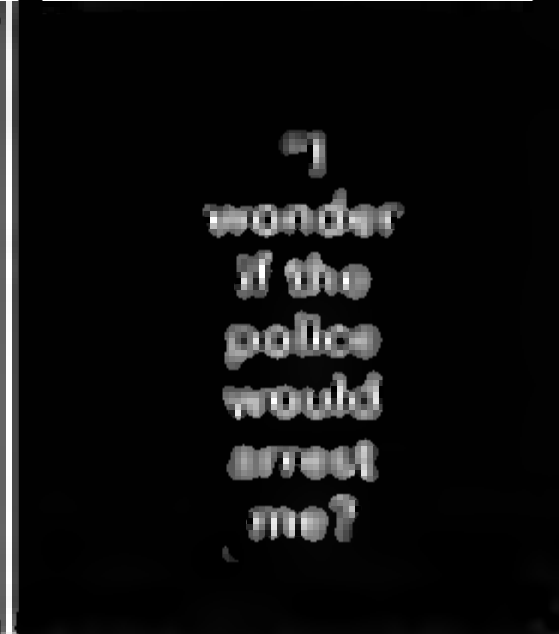
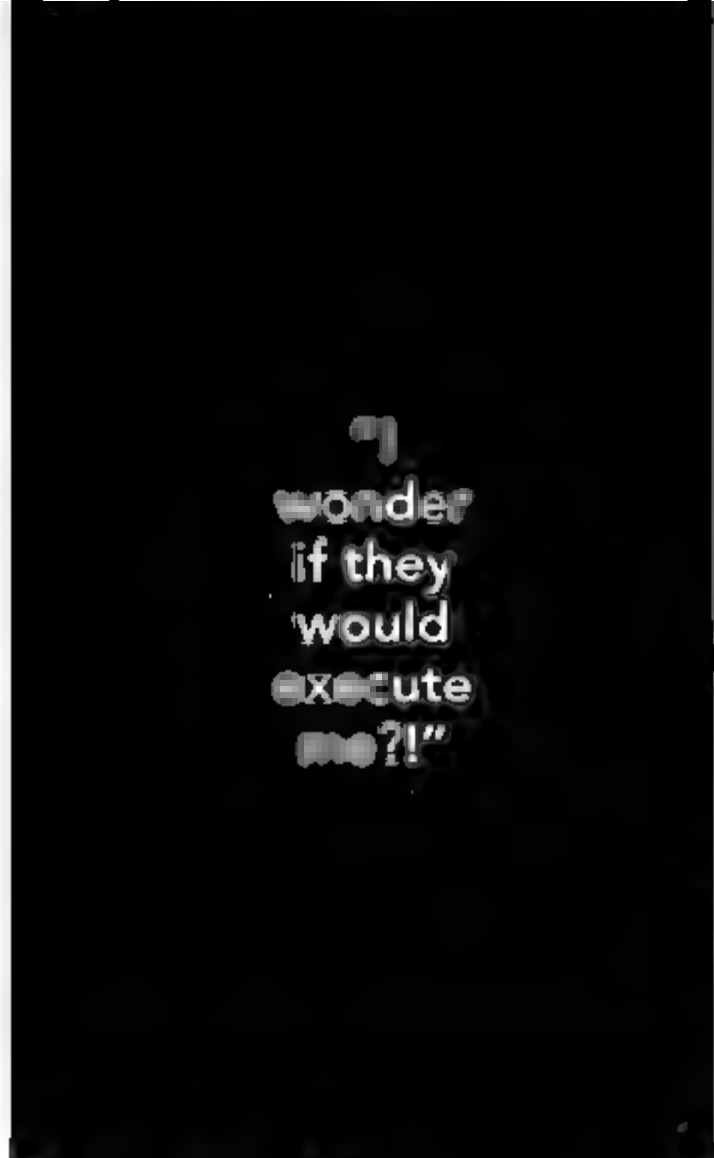
It's
not
like...

...he
should
just peel
off her
clothes
and
shove
his meat
in, no
matter
who she
was.

If he got
another
opportu-
nity with
Miss Sass
Pants...

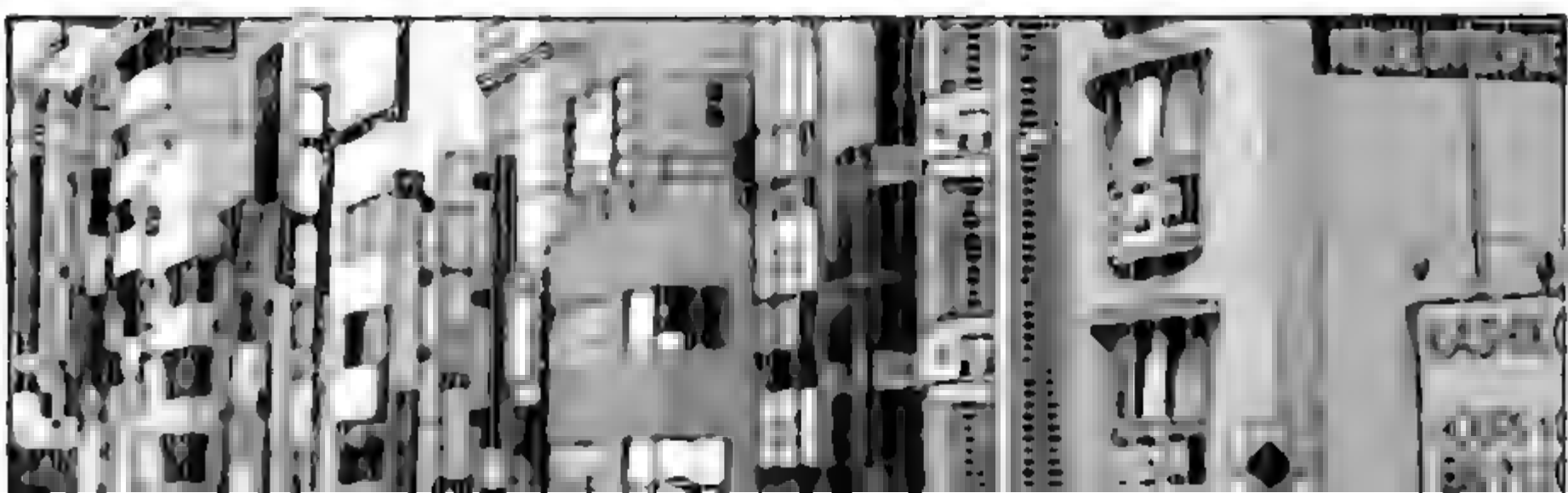
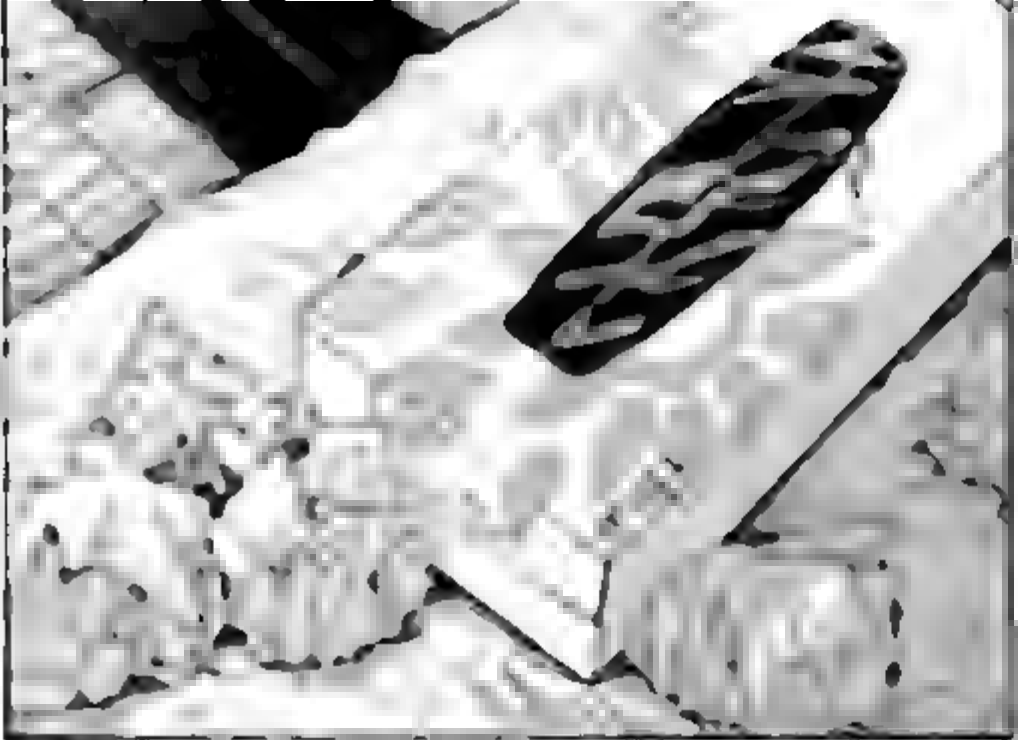


It
didn't
matter
anymore.





Pyun!



\$2.00
WARMKOCOL

WARMKOCOL
SOTIS



WARMKOCOL



His sighs
were sucked
into the town's
irritation and
resignation.

The
unpleasant
humidity
entwined
itself around
Punpun's body
like a fog.

...the rain
slithered
down.

Once
again...



...he
would be
unable to
remember
what
he was
trying to
do.

But
there was
a danger
that by
wandering
the streets
like a
zombie
day after
day...



...that
he could
think
about
anything
anymore.

Punpun
wasn't
sure...

OH.







THE
OTHER
NIGHT WAS
SOMETHING
ELSE,
WASN'T
IT?

YOU
WERE SO
FAR GONE,
YOU WERE
MAKING
ZERO
SENSE.

MR.
SHISHIDO
ENDED UP
GOING OFF
WITH SOME
OF THE
REGULARS.

Punpun remem-
bered
now.

...that's
right...

Oh...



OH,
SORRY.
DO YOU
WANT A
DRINK?



...THERE
WERE NO
DRUNKEN
SHENANIGANS,
SO DON'T
STRESS.

OH
...
...AND
SINCE YOU
SEEMED
WORRIED
ABOUT
IT...

If his
destiny
was to
return
to this
room...



YOU
SHOULD
PROBABLY
LAY OFF
THE
BOOZE.

HOW
ABOUT
SOME
COLONG
TEA?

I JUST
BOUGHT
A BUNCH
YESTERDAY.

HUH?

I
COULD HAVE
SWORN IT
WAS AROUND
HERE SOME-
WHERE...



...then
he must
stick his
cock in
her sassy
pussy.

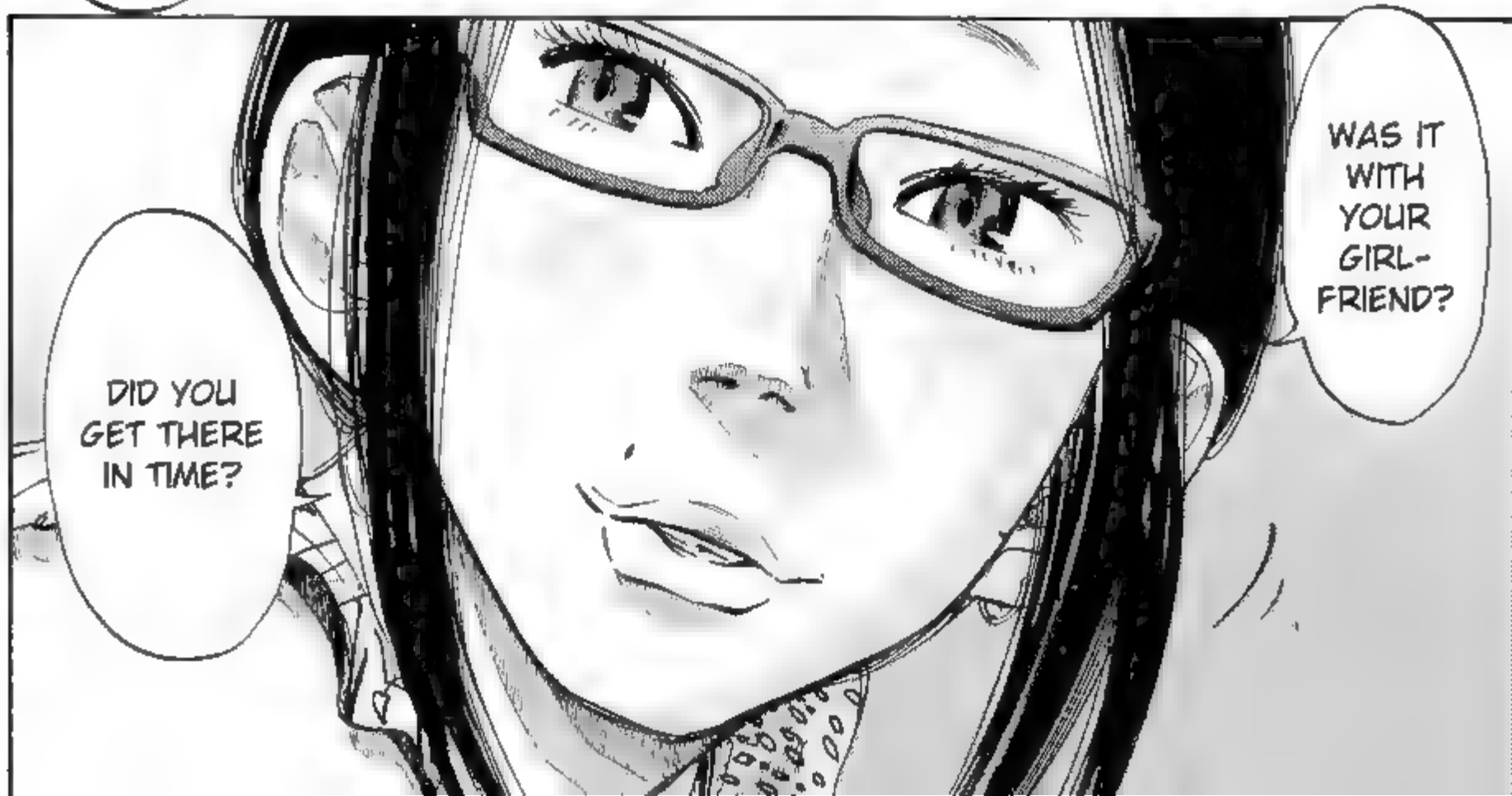


OH,
HERE
IT IS.

IF I'D
KNOWN
YOU HAD
PLANS, I
WOULD
HAVE
WOKEN
YOU UP.

...SORRY
YOU WERE
LATE FOR
YOUR
THING.

BY
THE
WAY...



DID YOU
GET THERE
IN TIME?

WAS IT
WITH
YOUR
GIRL-
FRIEND?



WHAT'S
UP?

WHAT?

HUH?



"Do you
need any
help?
Snigger."

MAKE
YOURSELF
AT HOME.
YOU'VE
GOT THE
GRAVEYARD
SHIFT,
RIGHT?

IT'S A
ONE-
PERSON
JOB.

OH,
NO,
NO...



HERE
...

...DIG
IN!

YOU'RE
BROKE,
RIGHT?

YOU LOOK
PALE. YOU
SHOULD EAT
BETTER.



UGH,
THEY'RE
IRRITAT-
ING.

MODEL-
TURNED-
CELEBRITY
IS TOO
GREEDY,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

I HAVE
NATTO AND
KIMCHI,
SO HELP
YOURSELF.

LET ME
KNOW IF
IT'S TOO
BLAND.

IF
THERE'S
ANYTHING
YOU DON'T
LIKE, JUST
SHOVE IT
ASIDE.

COR-
RECT.

OSHA-
MANBE,
HOK-
KAIDO!

"Is it because
you have
confidence in
yourself that
you can be
kind to other
people?"

"You're
surprisingly
kind,
Nanjo."

OH, YOU
CAN
CHANGE
THE
CHANNEL.

MUST BE
NICE TO
BE SO
BLESSED.

YOU
THINK?

HMM?

THIS IS
JUST
NORMAL.

I'VE GOT
THE USUAL
AMOUNT
OF SELF-
INTEREST IN
BEING LIKED,
JUST LIKE
EVERYONE
ELSE.

WOW,
THAT'S A
TWISTED
WAY TO
THINK.

AND
"SURPRIS-
INGLY"?
THAT'S
UNCALLED-
FOR.

Punpun
wished he
hadn't said
anything
at all.

"I'm not
very good
at talking
to people."

"I'm
sorry..."



OR GO
TO THE
STORE
AND BUY
SOME.

THEN
MAKE
SOME.

SO YOU
DON'T
HAVE ANY
SELF-CONFIDENCE?

HMMM
...



THAT
MUST GET
REALLY
EXHAUSTING.

JUST TALK
NATURALLY.
SAY WHAT
YOU THINK.

YOU
KNOW
...

...I'VE
NOTICED
THAT YOU
STRESS
OUT ABOUT
EVERY-
THING.

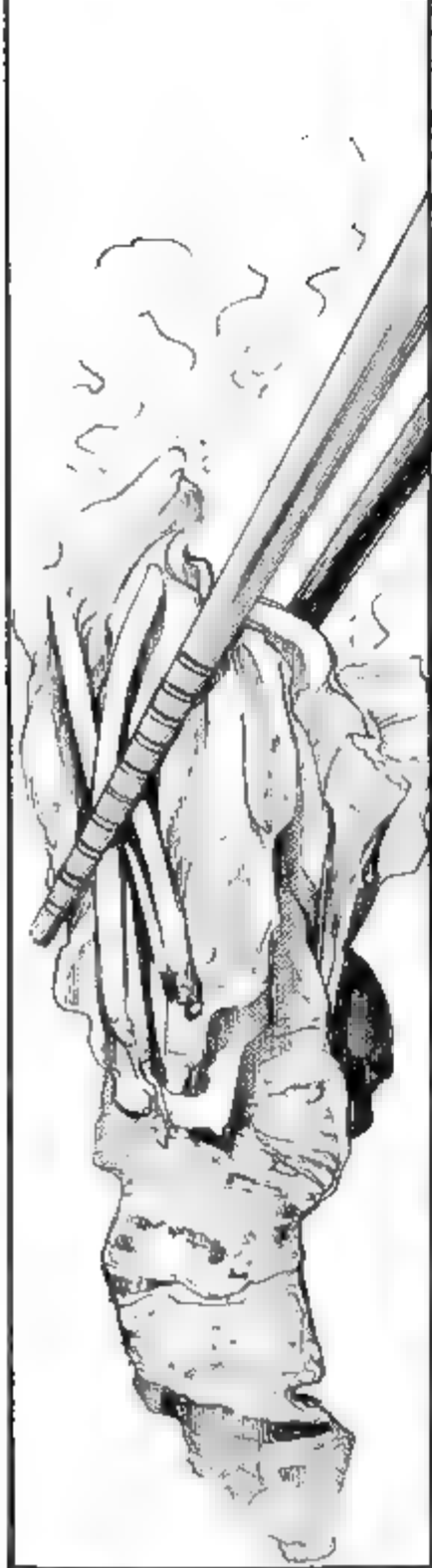


THAT'S
OKAY.
I'M
THICK-
SKINNED.

JUST
BE
YOUR-
SELF.

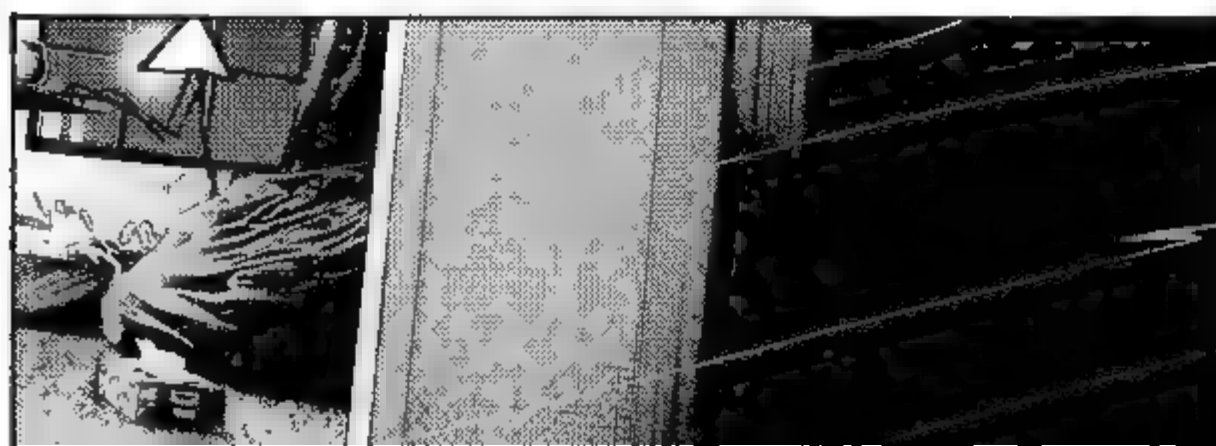
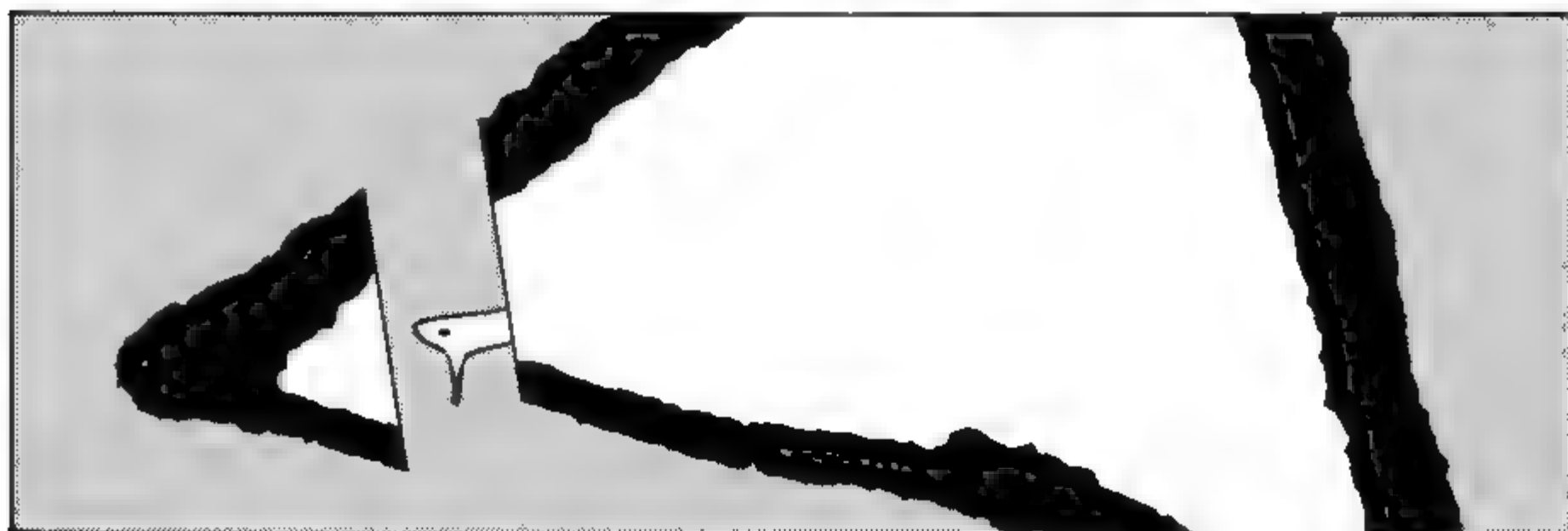
"I'm
scared
that...that
natural
will hurt
the
person I'm
speaking
to."





"No...
That's
okay."





"Not only do I not have a girlfriend, I don't even have friends."

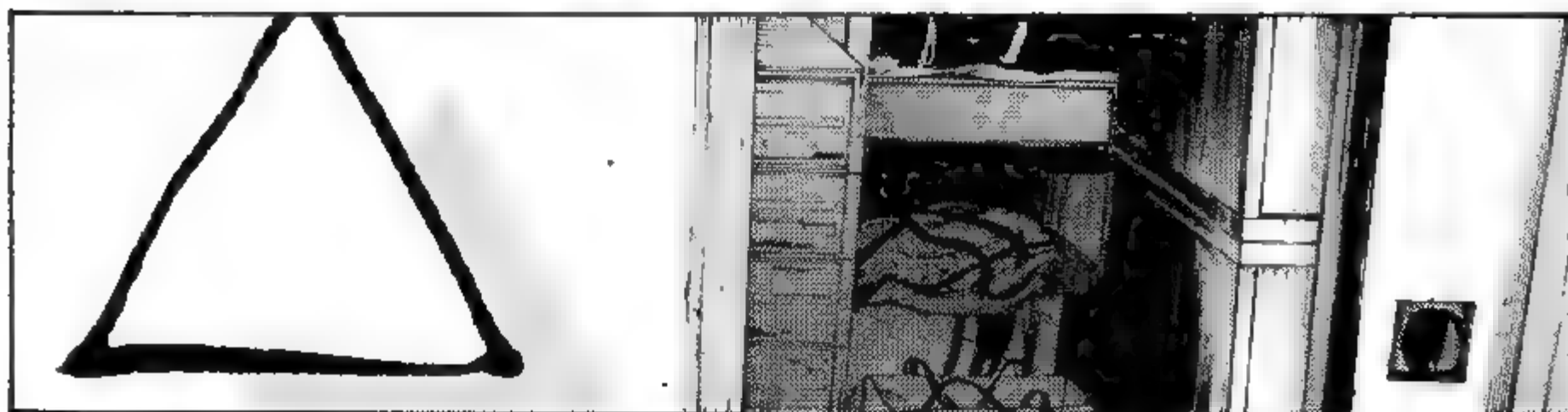


"I..."



"...so I lied and said I had plans so I could leave."

"I was feeling really awkward the other day..."



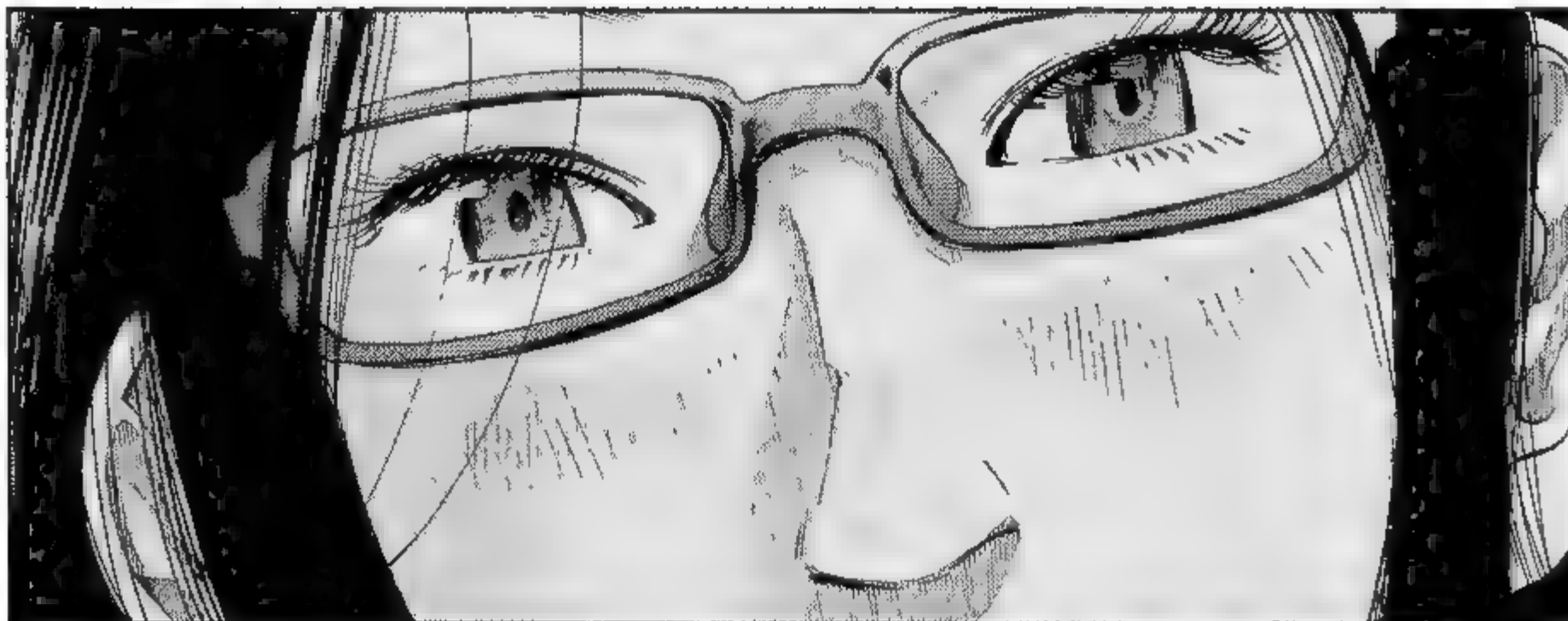
"While you were passed out, I stared at your bare legs and your thighs. To be exact, I was mostly looking at your crotch."



"...so
that's
why
I ran
away.

"...and was
like, **whoa**,
and then
I was like,
yikes...

"I
saw your
pubic hair
popping
out..."

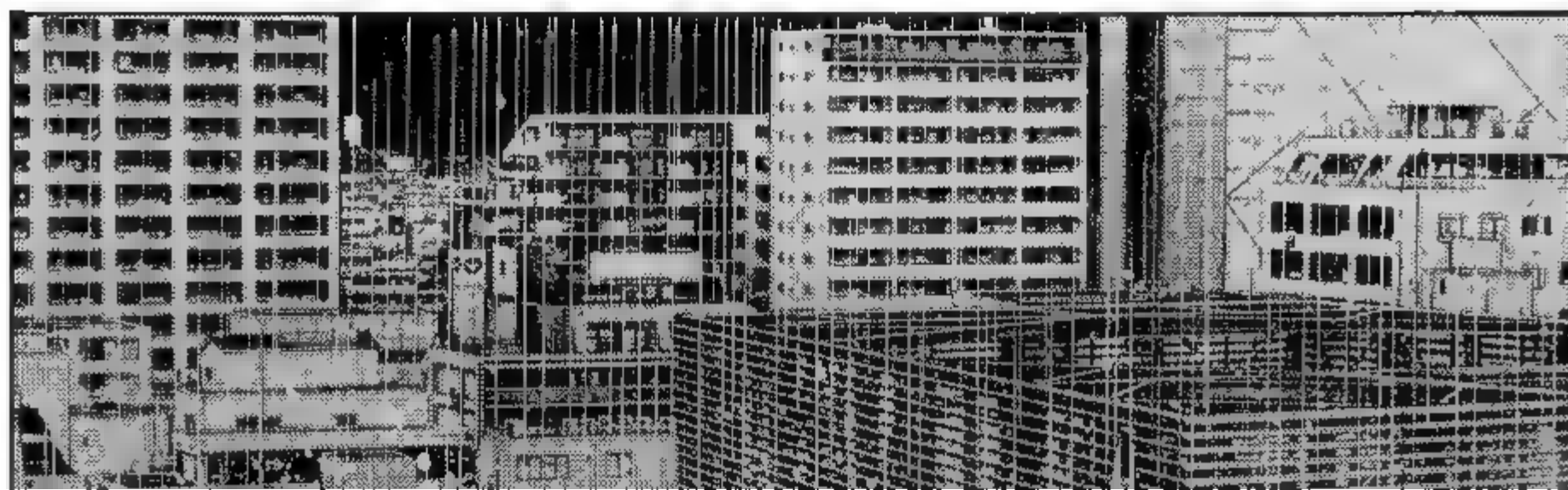


"As long
as I'm
being
honest..."





"...jerked off
for the first
time in three
years last
night."



★

★

Chapter 81

★

★

"...I was
masturbating
continuously.

"...to be more
accurate,
between the
hours of last
night and this
morning...

"Actually...

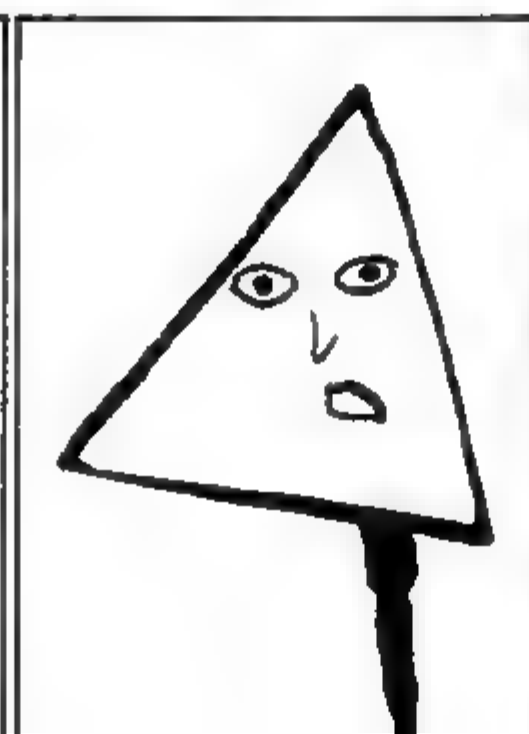


★

"...so
it was
incredibly
powerful."



"I've
prohibited
myself from
masturbating
since high
school for
personal
reasons...



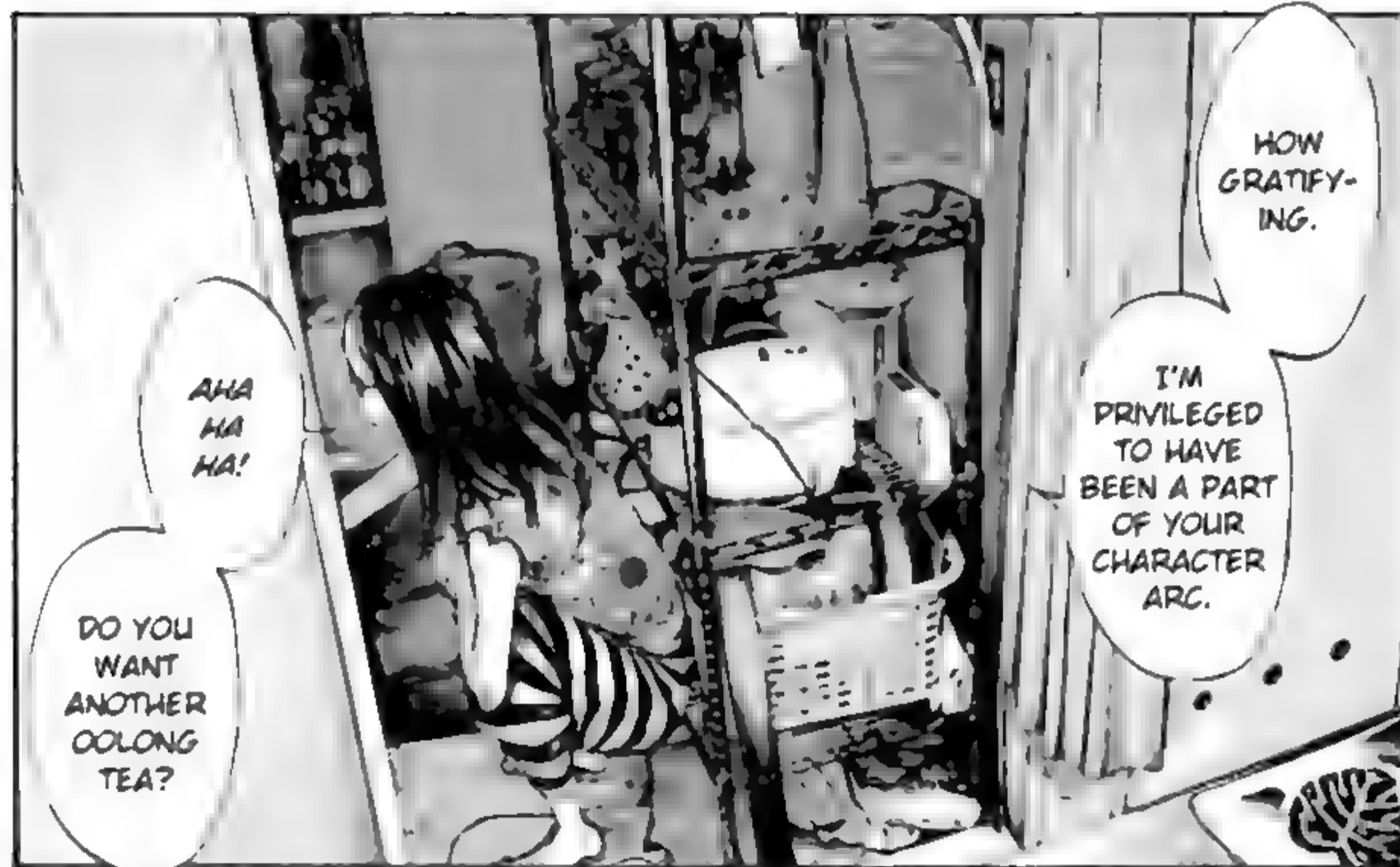


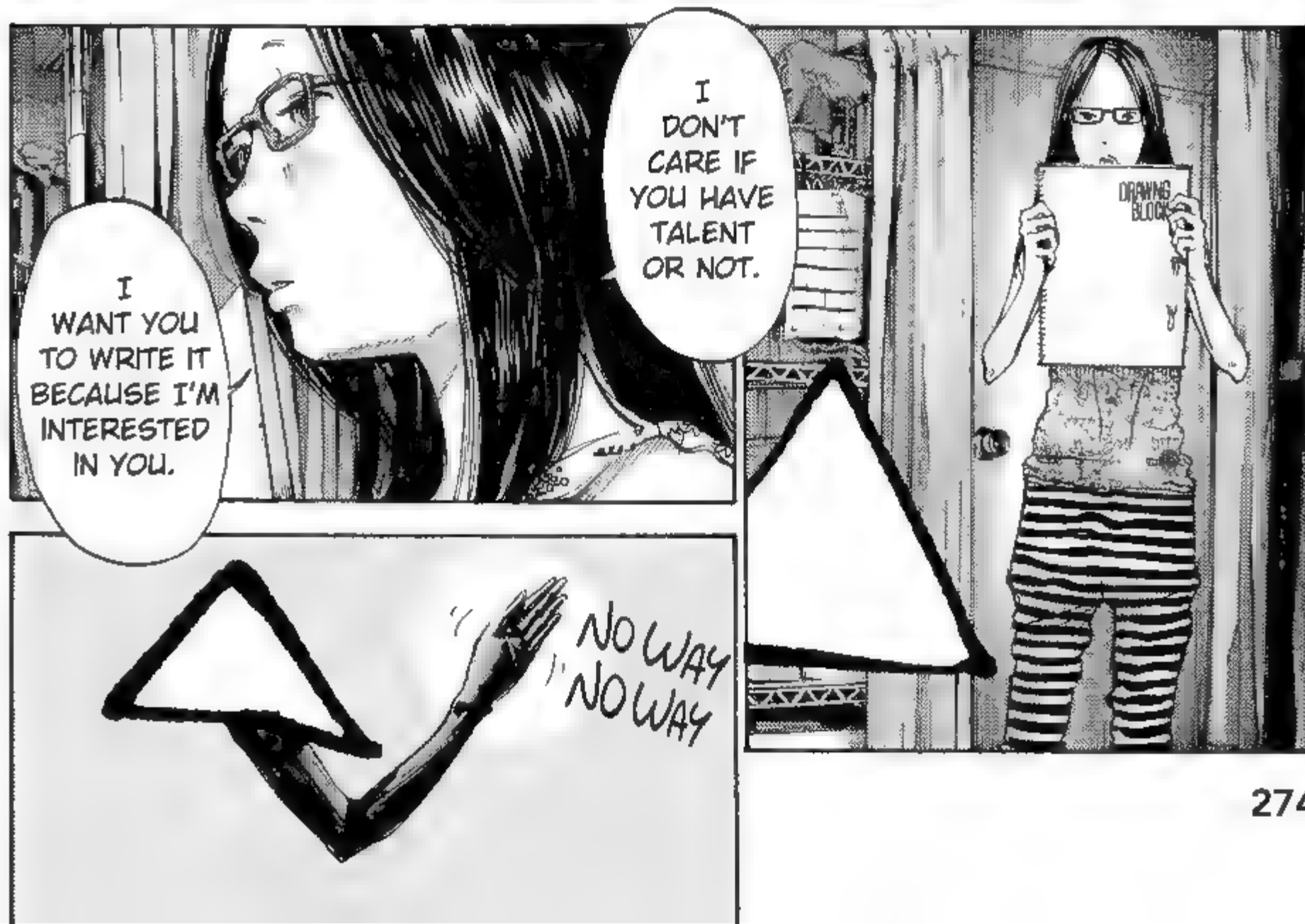
HMM, I'M ASTOUNDED YOU HELD OFF FOR THREE YEARS.

I WON'T ASK WHAT THE PERSONAL REASONS WERE.

I'M JUST KIDDING.

おはよう





△,,,

YOU
CAN'T
HIDE
FROM
ME.

I
ASKED MR.
SHISHIDO
FOR YOUR
ADDRESS.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
"NO WAY"?
YOU'RE NOT
DOING
ANYTHING
ELSE.

PUNPUN
...

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOUR
ISSUE
IS...

...AND I
GET THAT IF
YOU'RE BY
YOURSELF
YOU CAN'T
HURT
ANYONE.

I GET
THAT
YOU'RE
REALLY
EARNEST
...

...BUT IS
THERE
A POINT
TO YOU
JUST
HIDING
AWAY?

AM I
RIGHT?

AND
BESIDES,
YOU'RE
NOT THAT
STRONG...

BUT THE
WORLD ISN'T
SIMPLE
ENOUGH
FOR YOU TO
SURVIVE ALL
ON YOUR
OWN.



"...I have
something I
need to do."



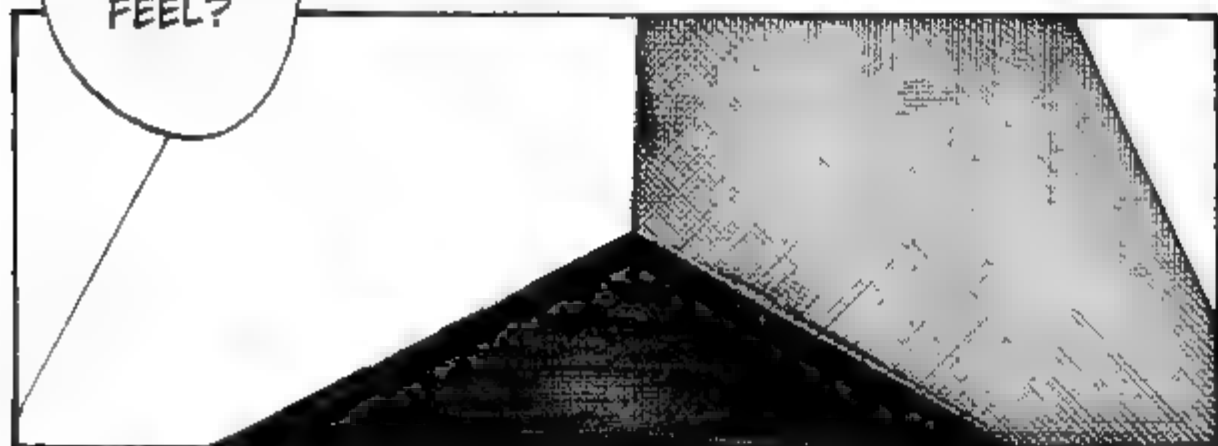
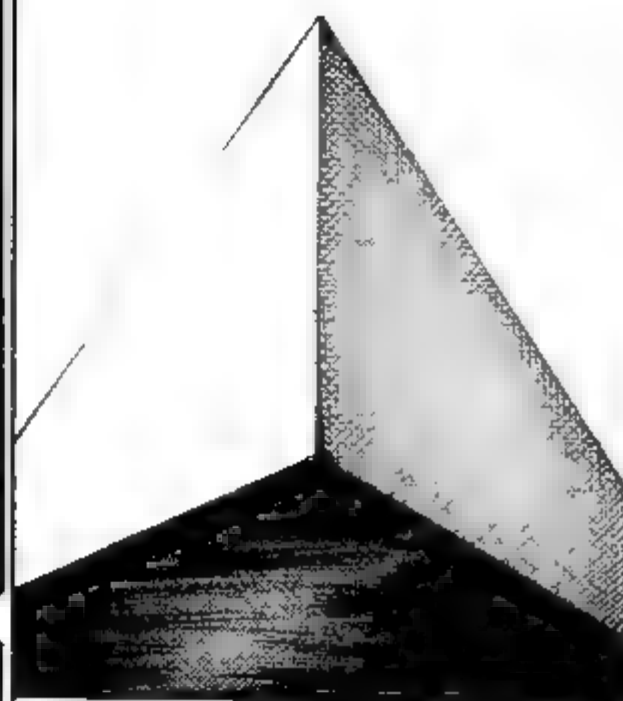
SOME-
THING
YOU
NEED TO
DO?



SETTLE
THINGS?

"I need
to settle
things with
a girl I used
to love."

ARE YOU
GOING TO
TELL HER
HOW YOU
FEEL?



"...so today,
just like every
other day, I
walked around
town looking
for her."

"...but
I feel
like I
need to
see her
again..."

"No,
not
really..."



AND
IF YOU
DON'T
FIND
HER BY
THEN?



THAT'S
SO
INEFFI-
CIENT...

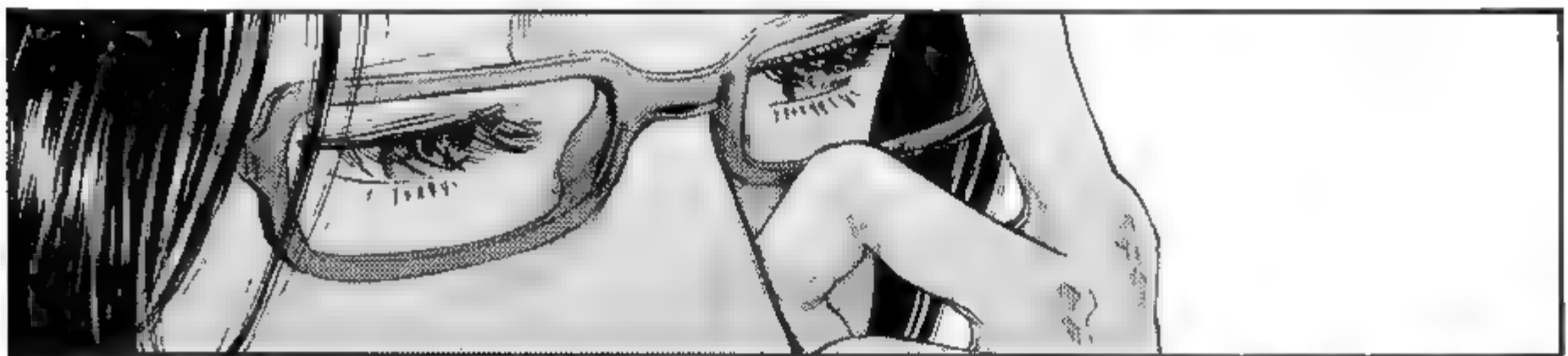
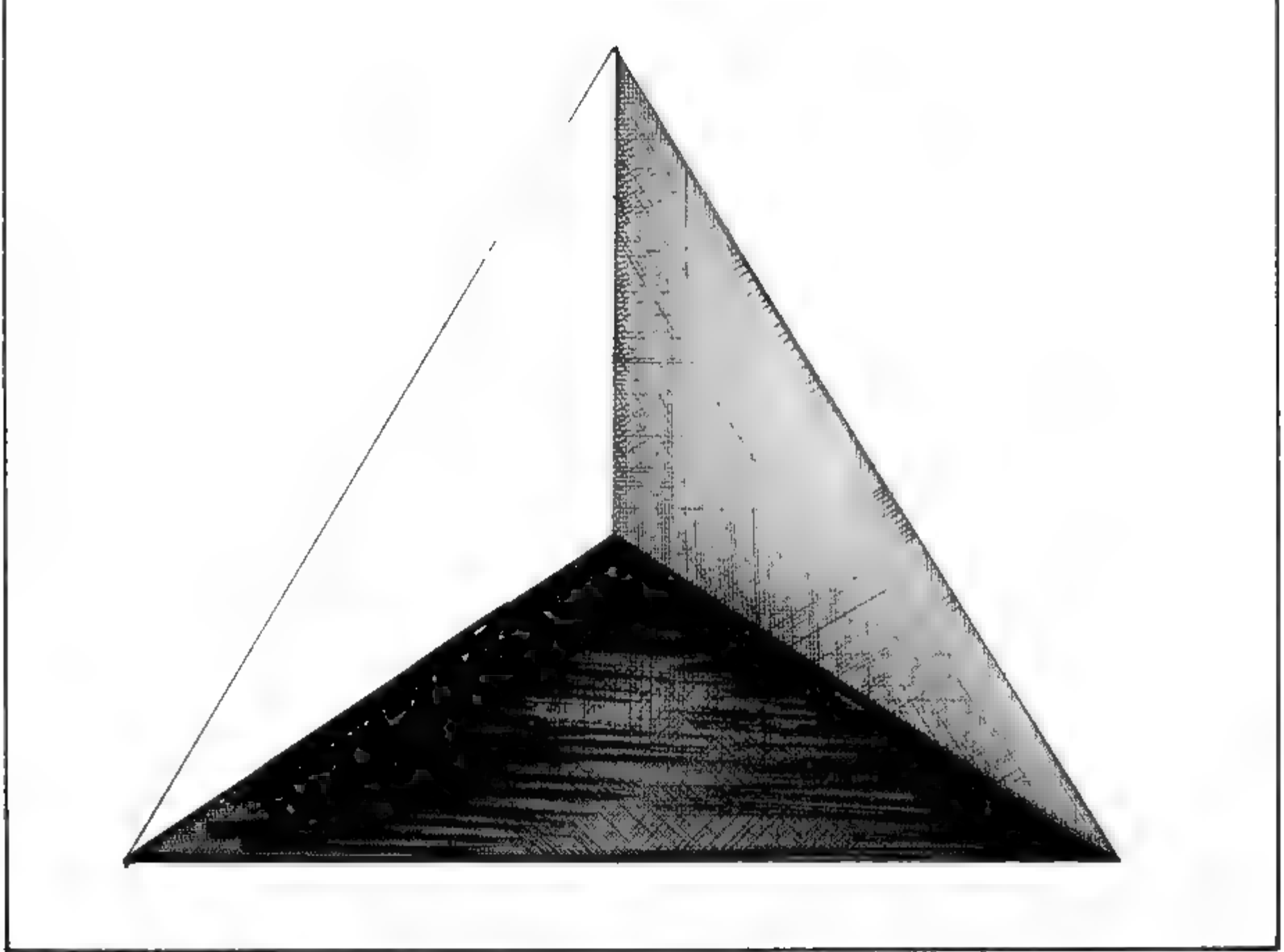
HOW
LONG
CAN YOU
KEEP IT
UP?

HMM
...

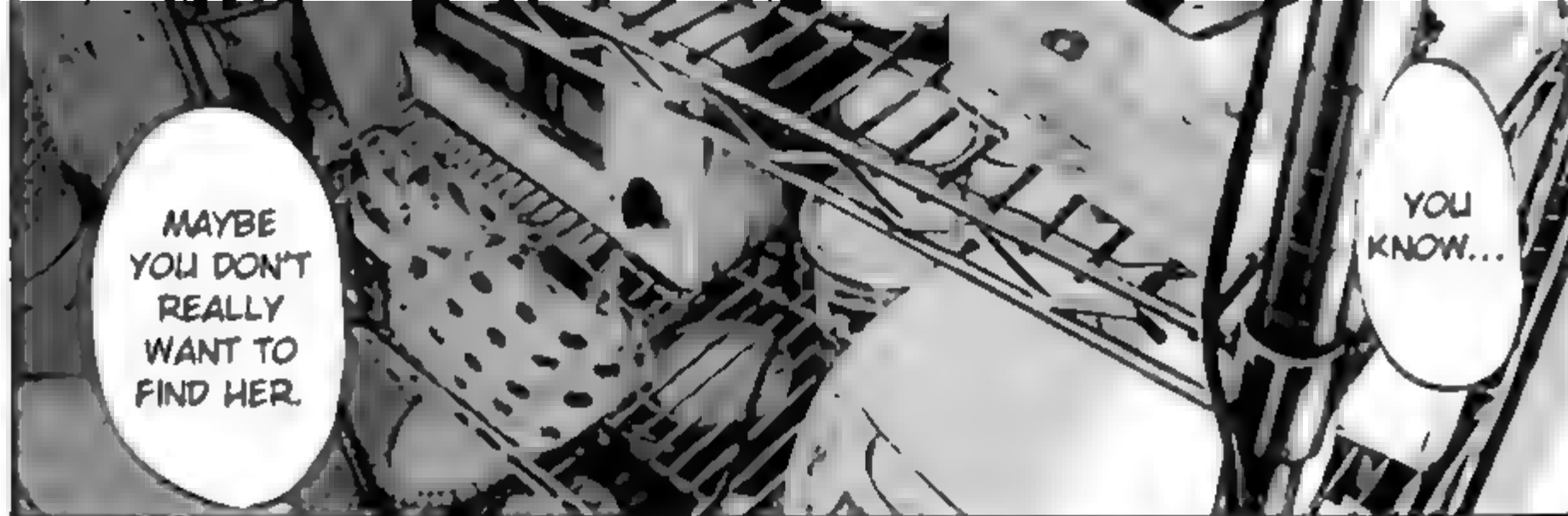
YOU
MEAN,
YOU'RE
JUST
NOT
OVER
HER?

"...until
the lease is
up on my
apartment."

"For
two
years..."



YOU
COULD LOOK
HER UP IN AN
OLD SCHOOL
DIRECTORY
OR ASK YOUR
OTHER
CLASSMATES.
IT'S NOT THAT
HARD.



MAYBE
YOU DON'T
REALLY
WANT TO
FIND HER.

YOU
KNOW...



IT
SEEMS
LIKE...

...YOU'RE
JUST MAKING
EXCUSES AND
PUTTING OFF
MAKING A
DECISION.

MAYBE
YOU ARE
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO A
MOMENTOUS
REUNION...

...BUT
WHAT'S
THE
POINT?



...BUT
IN REALITY
YOU'LL BE
LIVING AN UN-
PRODUCTIVE
LIFE WITHOUT
THINKING OR
DOING A
THING.

YOU'LL
APPEAR
CON-
FLICTED
...

I
THINK IN
TEN YEARS
YOU'LL STILL
BE LOOKING
FOR
EXCUSES.

I
SUSPECT
IT WON'T
BE JUST
TWO
YEARS.



BUT I
THINK
YOUR
DESPAIR
IS POINT-
LESS.

BECAUSE
YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR
SOLITUDE TOO,
WHICH MEANS
THERE'S NO
ONE TO SHARE
YOUR DESPAIR
WITH.

I
DON'T
MIND.

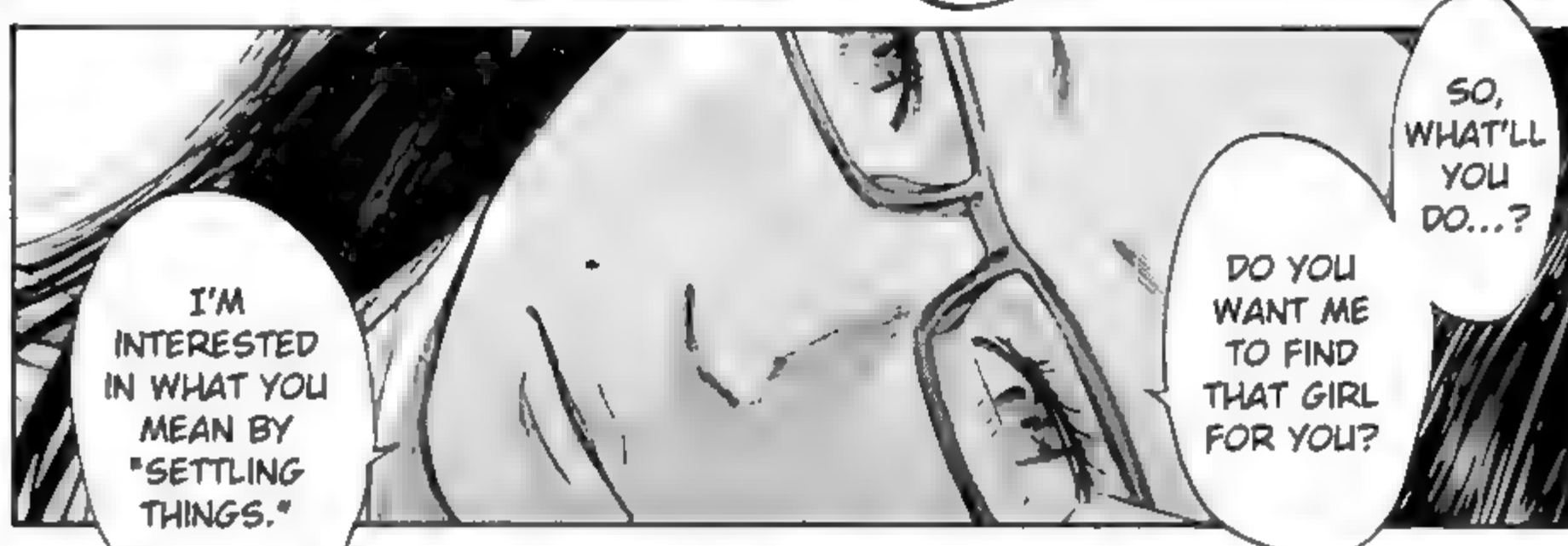
LOTS OF
PEOPLE ARE
SATISFIED
PLAYING THE
DESPAIR
GAME.



I THINK
BLUMPING
INTO ME
AGAIN WAS
LIKE FATE.

SO,
PUNPUN
...

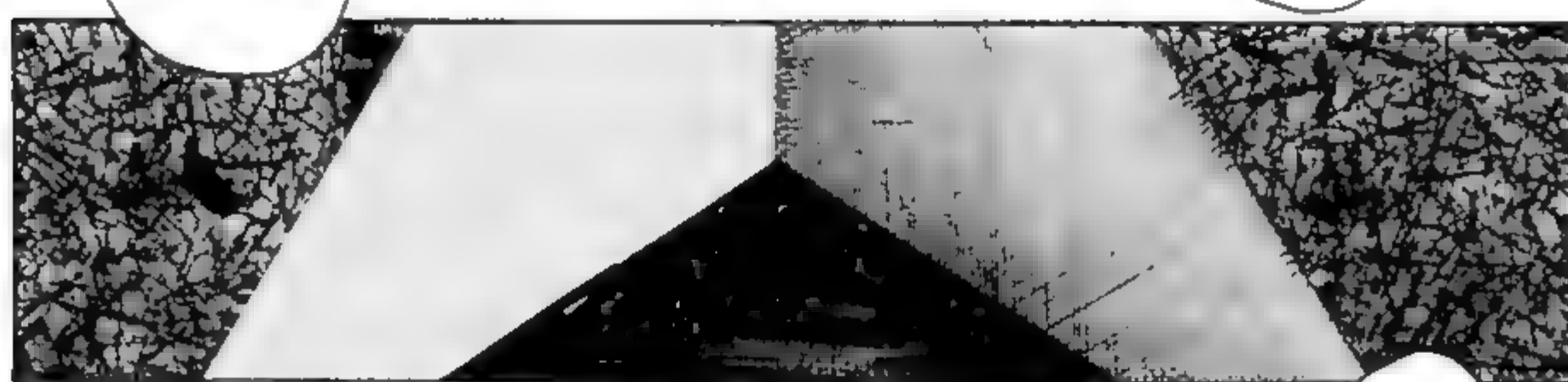
BUT
WHETHER YOU
ACCEPT IT AS
FATE OR A MERE
COINCIDENCE IS
UP TO YOU.



I'M
INTERESTED
IN WHAT YOU
MEAN BY
"SETTLING
THINGS."

DO YOU
WANT ME
TO FIND
THAT GIRL
FOR YOU?

SO,
WHAT'LL
YOU
DO...?



...AND
USE YOUR
BRAIN FOR
A HAPPIER,
MORE FUN
TOMORROW?

SO WHY
DON'T
YOU PACK
UP THAT
WISPY
MEMORY
...



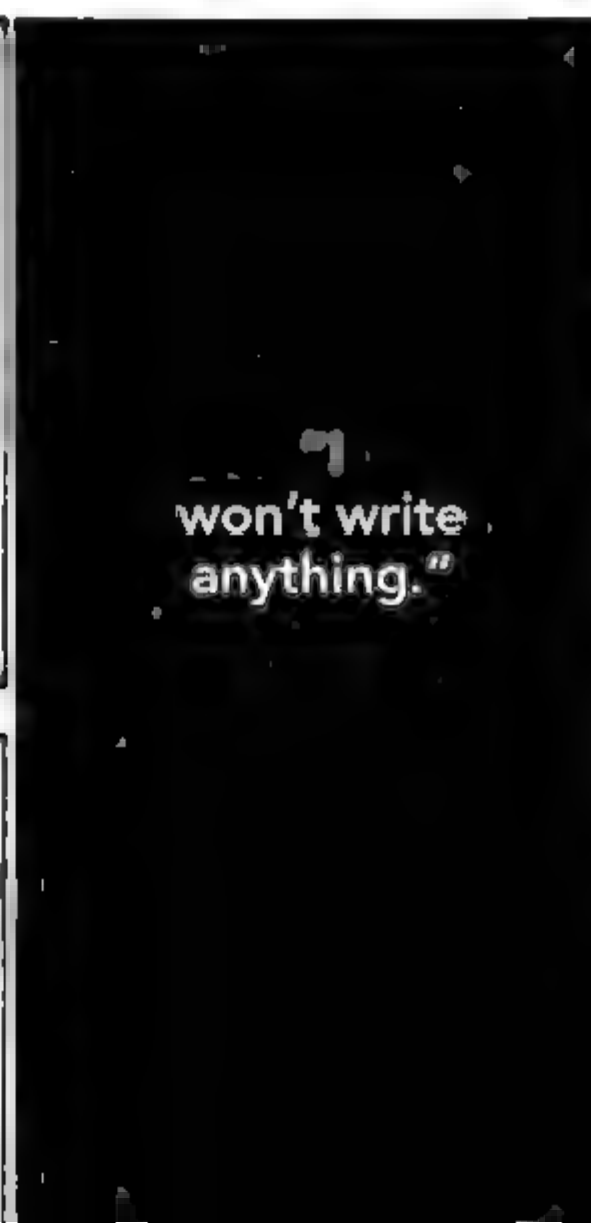


THEN
DIE
RIGHT
NOW!

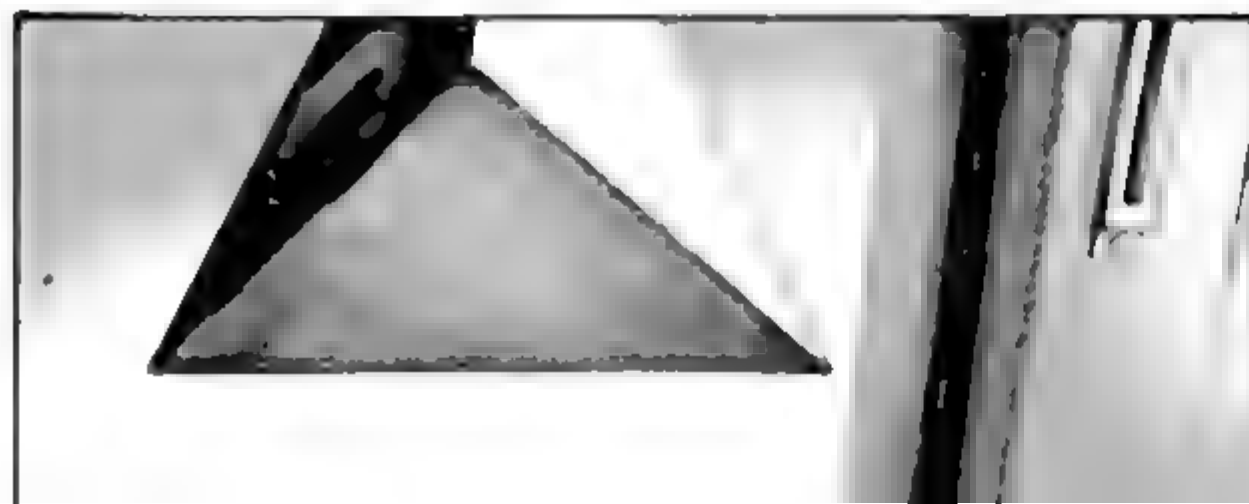




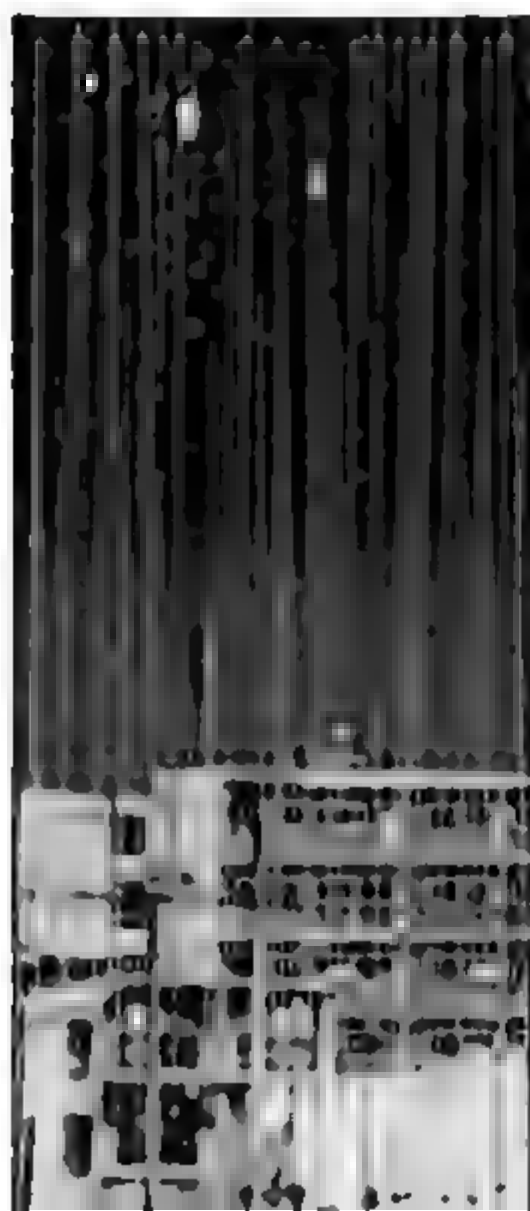
I'M
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO IT.

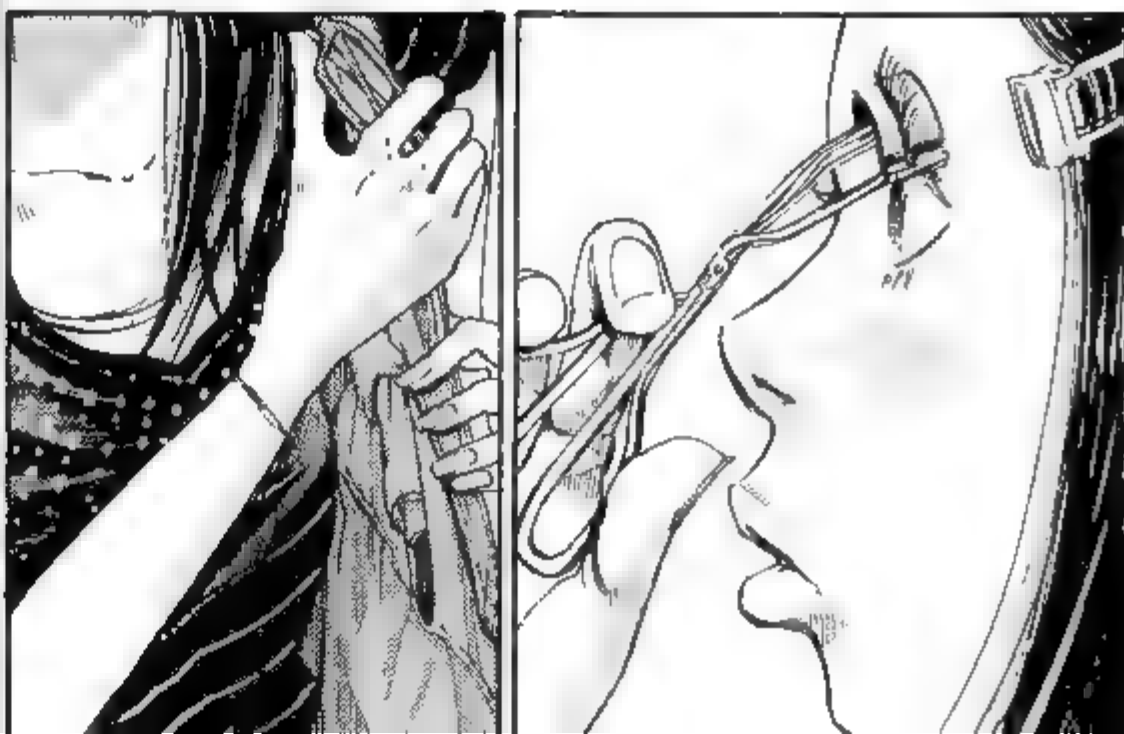
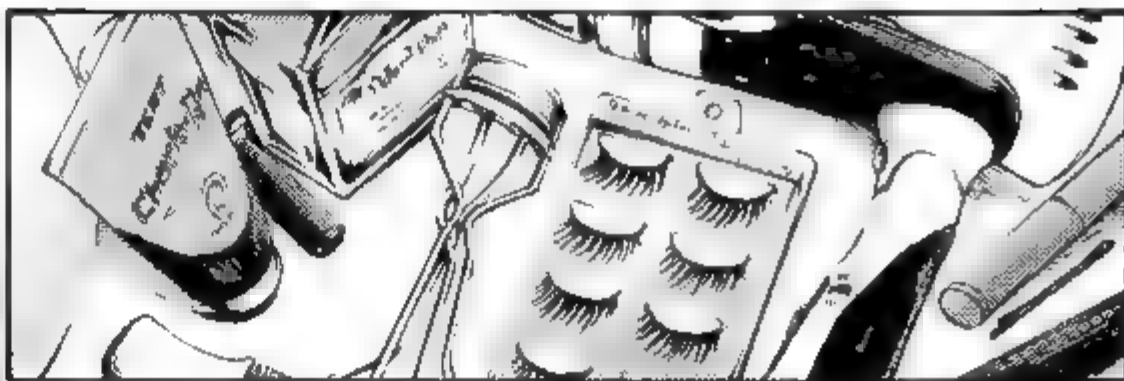
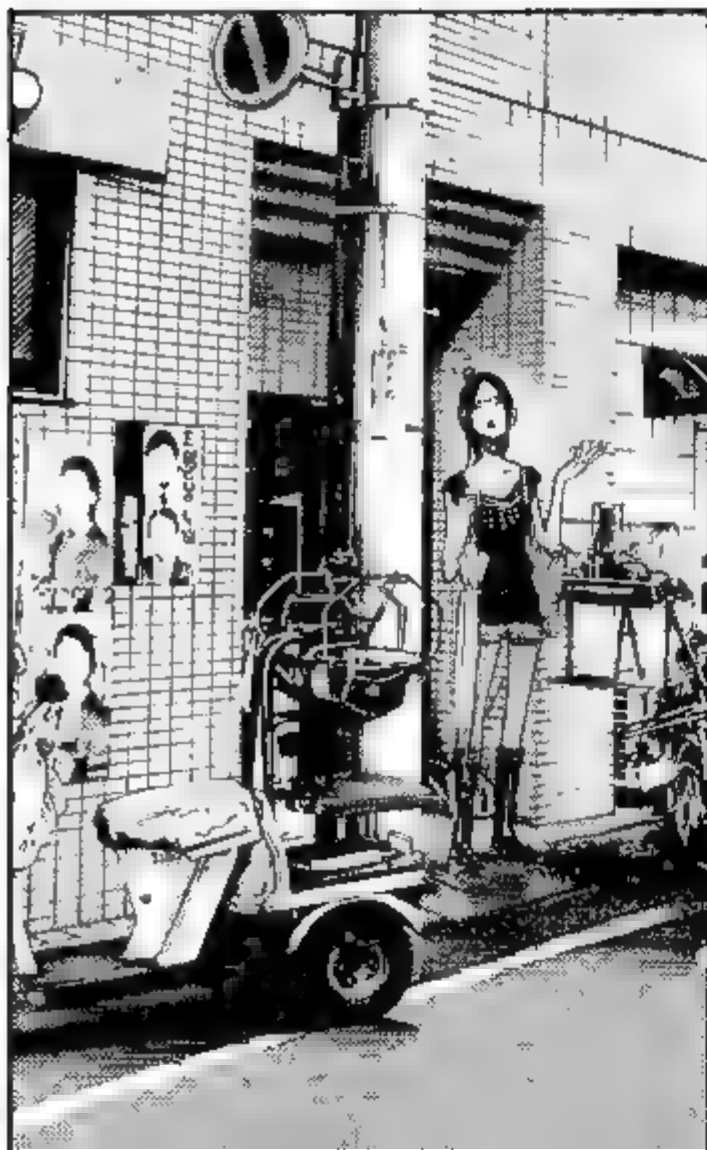
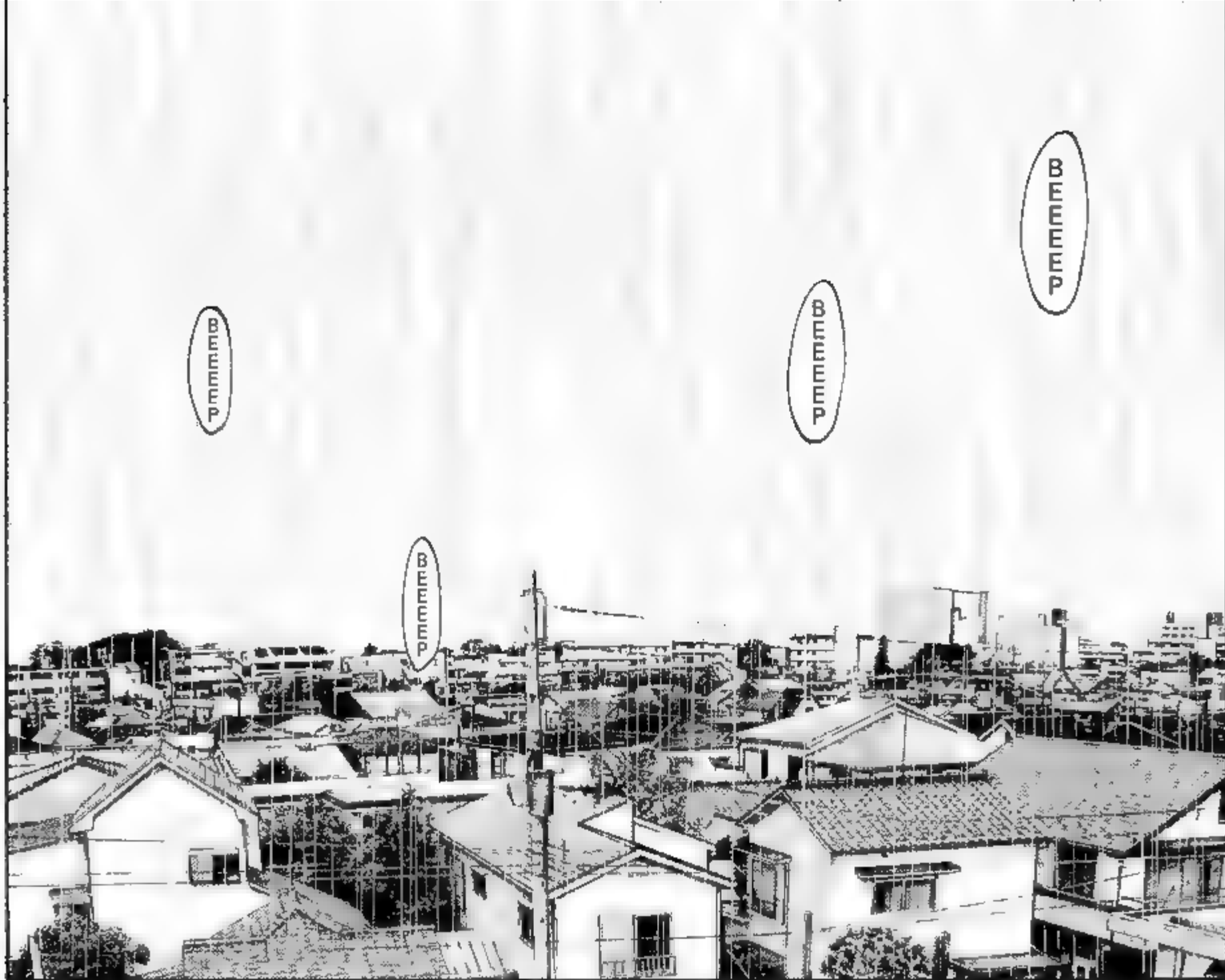


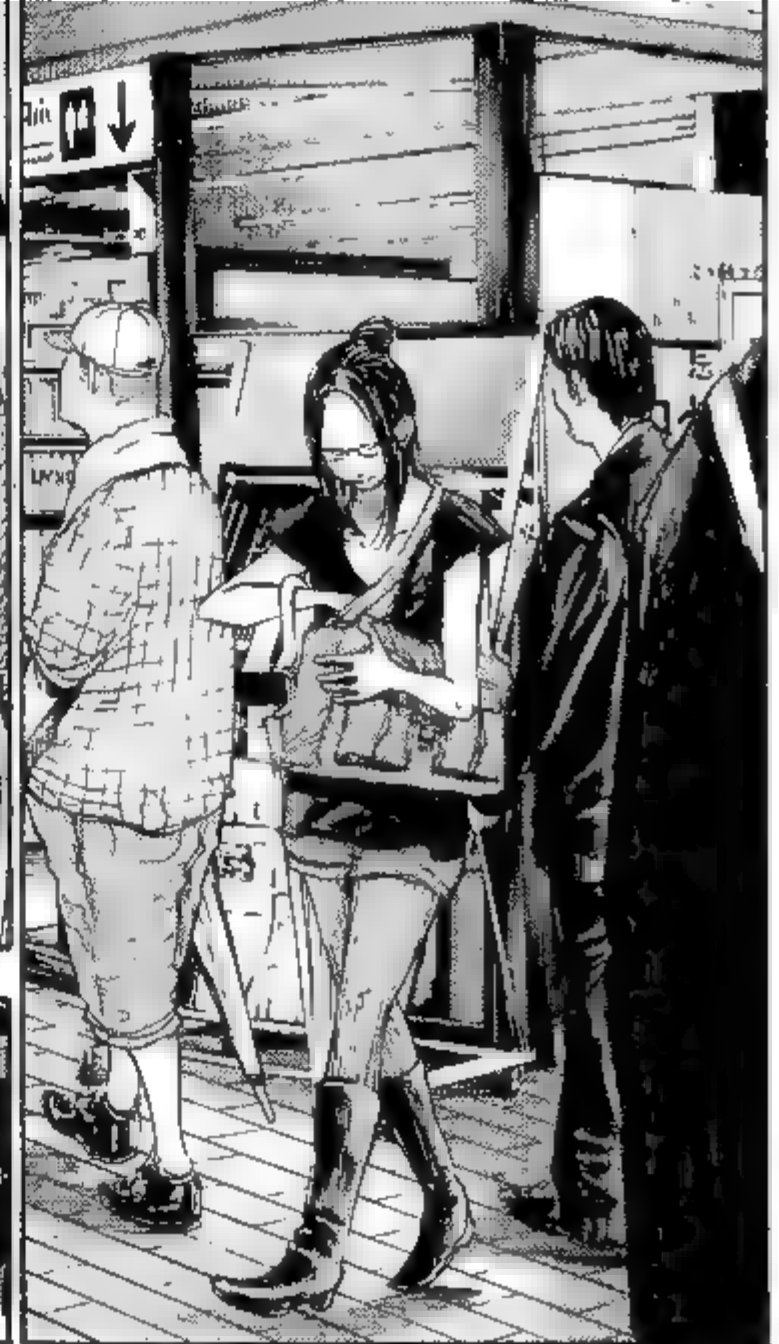
won't write
anything."



"You're
very
pushy."









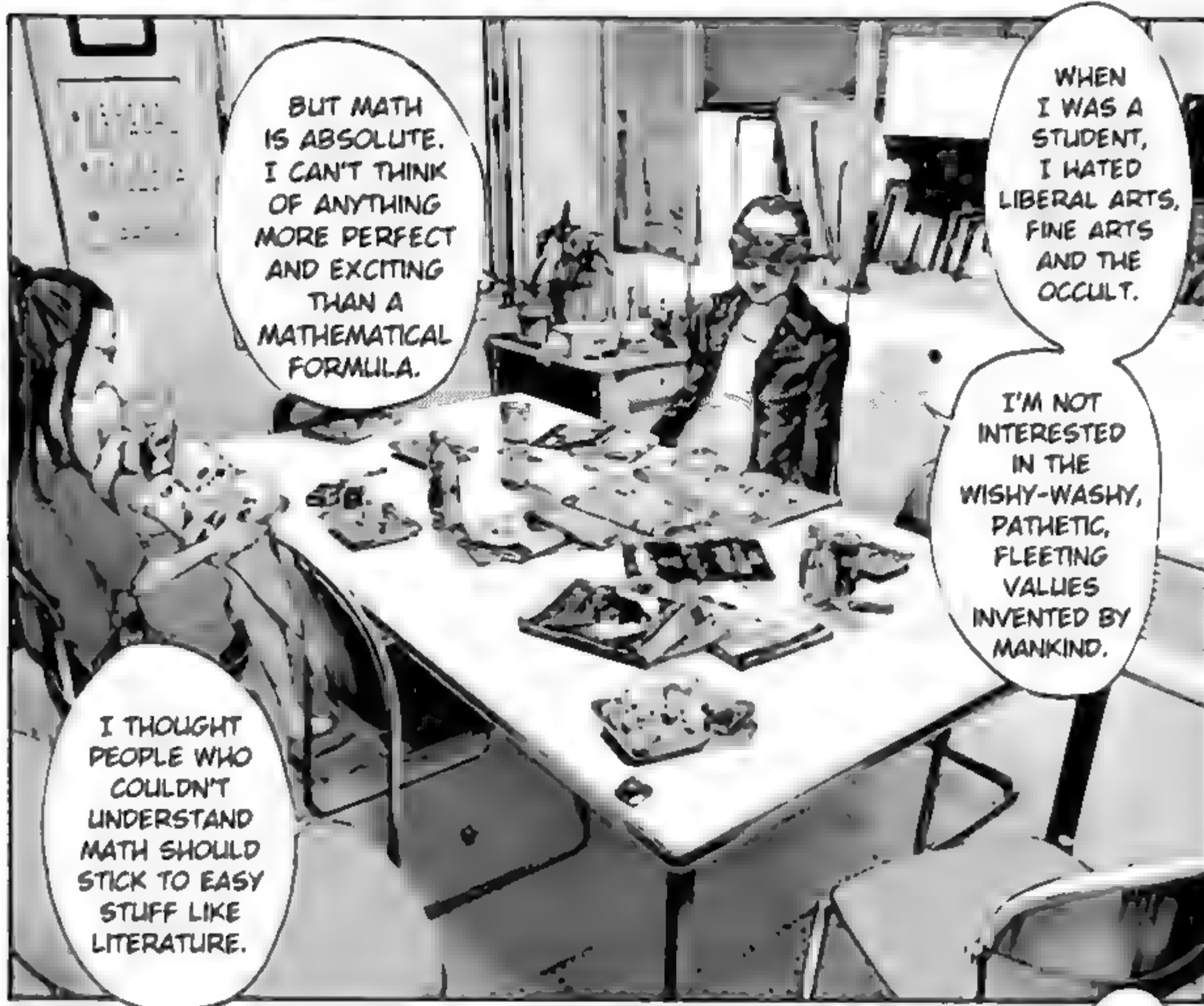
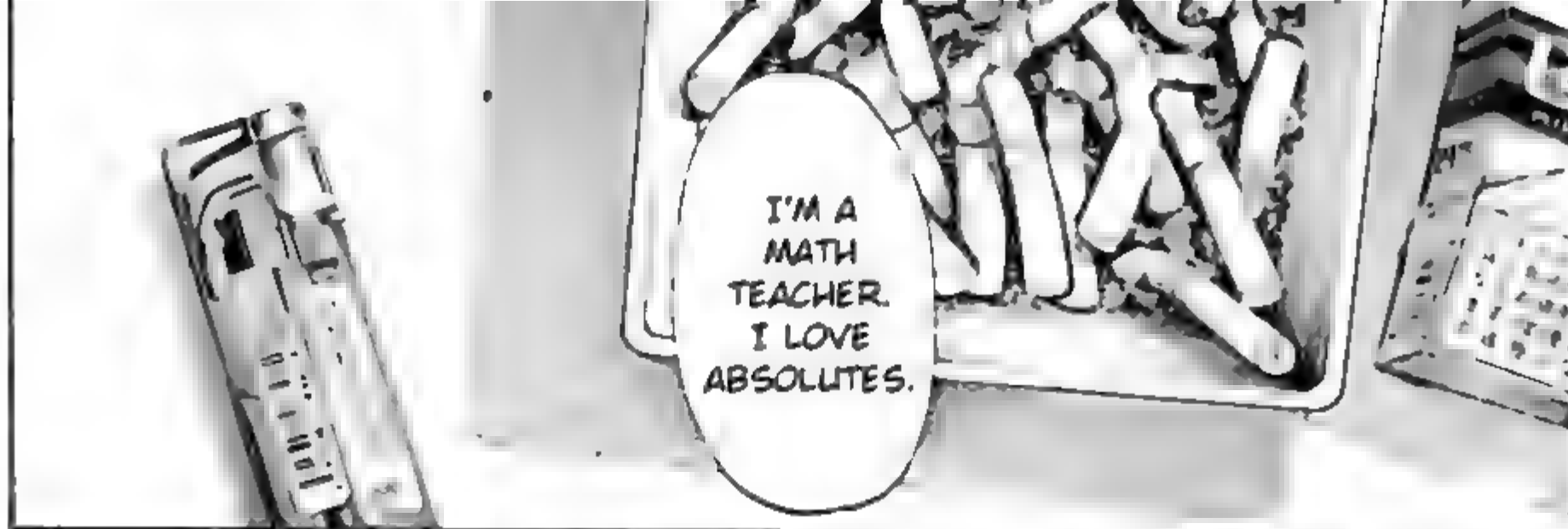
...couldn't
step foot
out of his
apartment
that day.

Punpun...



He was
very, very
annoyed.

He was
annoyed.

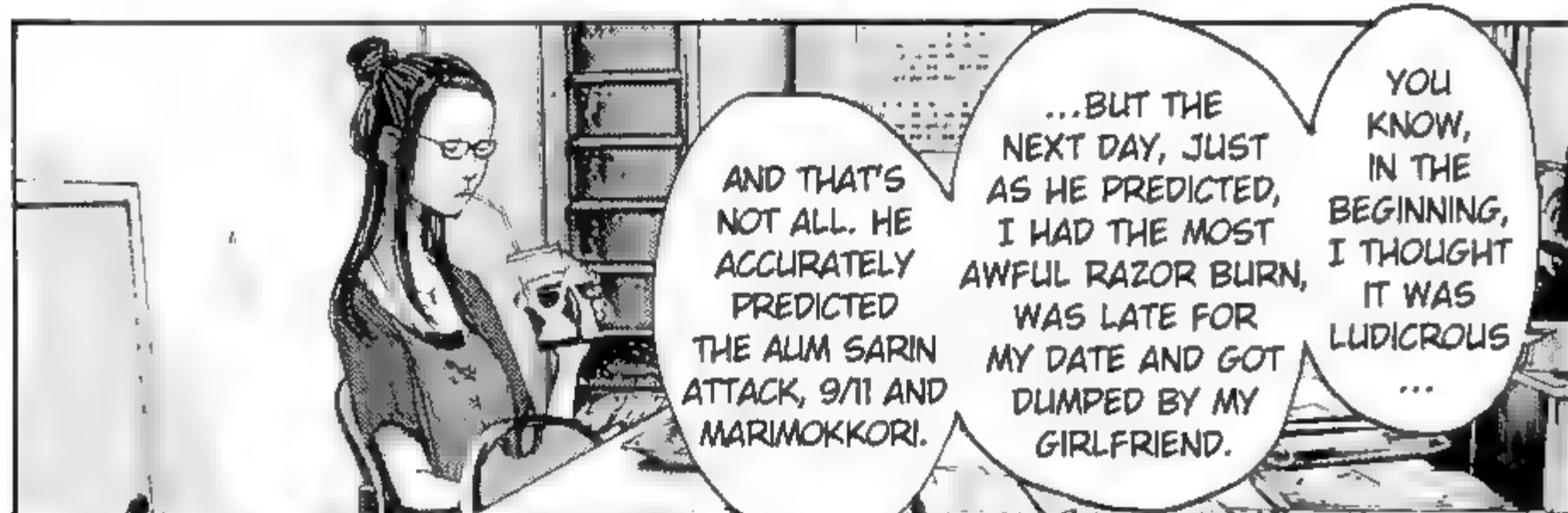




I
ASKED HIM
WHAT SONG
IT WAS, AND
HE LOOKED
AT ME WITH
CHILDLIKE
EYES AND
SAID...

"THIS IS
THE SONG I
HEARD LAST
NIGHT IN MY
DREAMS, AND
IT PREDICTS
YOUR TOMOR-
ROW."

IT
WAS AN
UNUSUAL
MELODY,
AND IT DREW
ME IN, EVEN
THOUGH I'M
NOT INTER-
ESTED IN
MUSIC AT
ALL.



AND THAT'S
NOT ALL. HE
ACCURATELY
PREDICTED
THE AUM SARIN
ATTACK, 9/11 AND
MARIMOKKORI.

...BUT THE
NEXT DAY, JUST
AS HE PREDICTED,
I HAD THE MOST
AWFUL RAZOR BURN,
WAS LATE FOR
MY DATE AND GOT
DUMPED BY MY
GIRLFRIEND.

YOU
KNOW,
IN THE
BEGINNING,
I THOUGHT
IT WAS
LUDICROUS
...



HE
REMINDED ME
OF RAMANUJAN,
THE GENIUS
MATHEMATICIAN
WHO SAID A
GODDESS CAME
TO HIM IN HIS
DREAMS AND
TAUGHT HIM
THEOREMS.

NOT
ONLY DOES
HE NOT USE
HIS TALENT
FOR GAIN, HE
DOESN'T EVEN
BRAG ABOUT
IT OR TRY TO
PROVE IT'S
REAL.

AND
HIS
SOUL
IS
REALLY
PURE.



...I MIGHT
BE JUST AN
ORDINARY GUY,
BUT I EXIST
TO PROVE THE
GREATNESS OF
A GENIUS.

AND
THEN I
REALIZED
...





YOU
SHOULD
GO OUT
WITH ME!

WAS
THAT A
COMPLI-
MENT?



ARE YOU
STUPID?

IN WHAT
CONTEXT
WAS THAT
APPROPRI-
ATE?

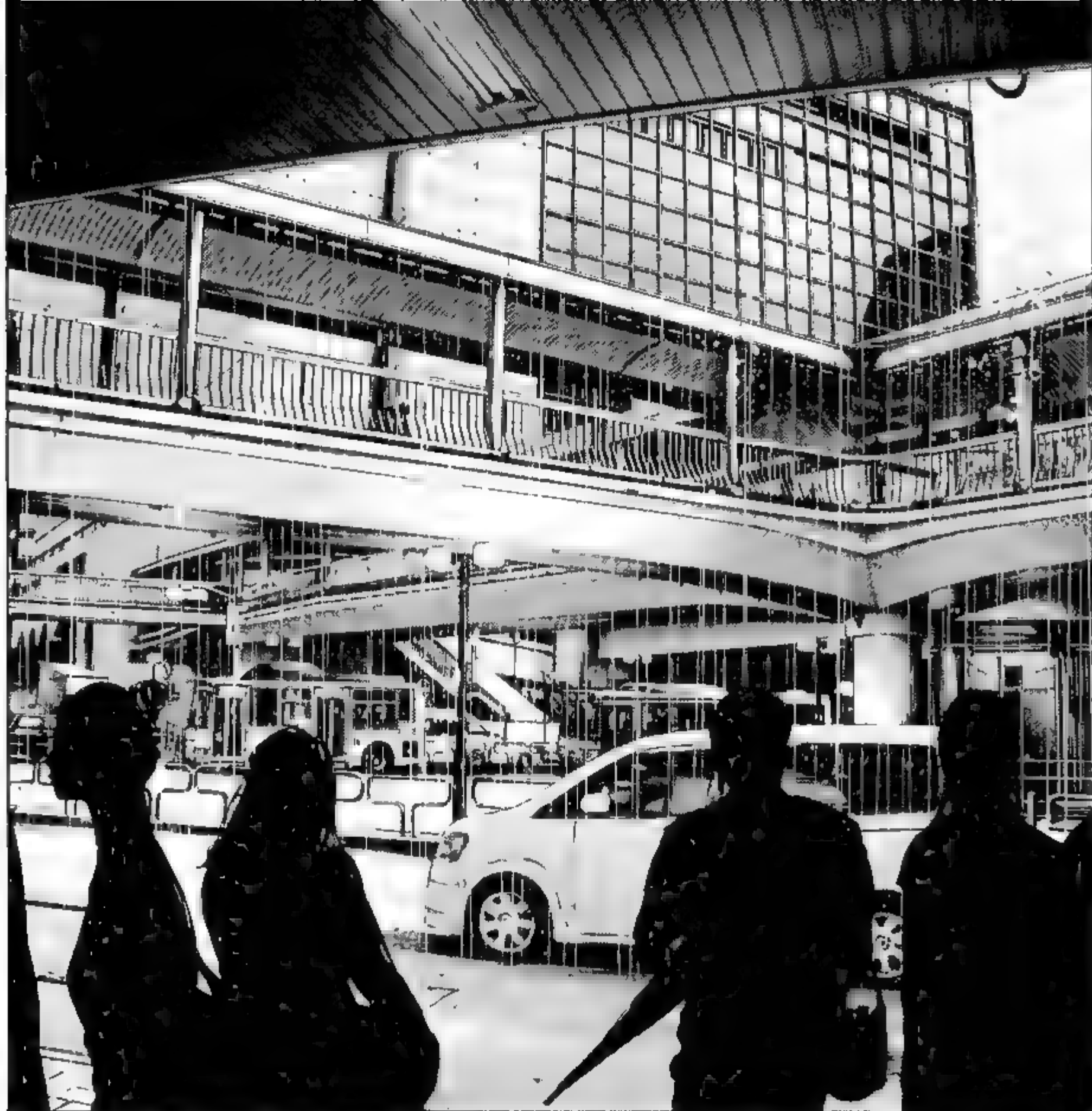


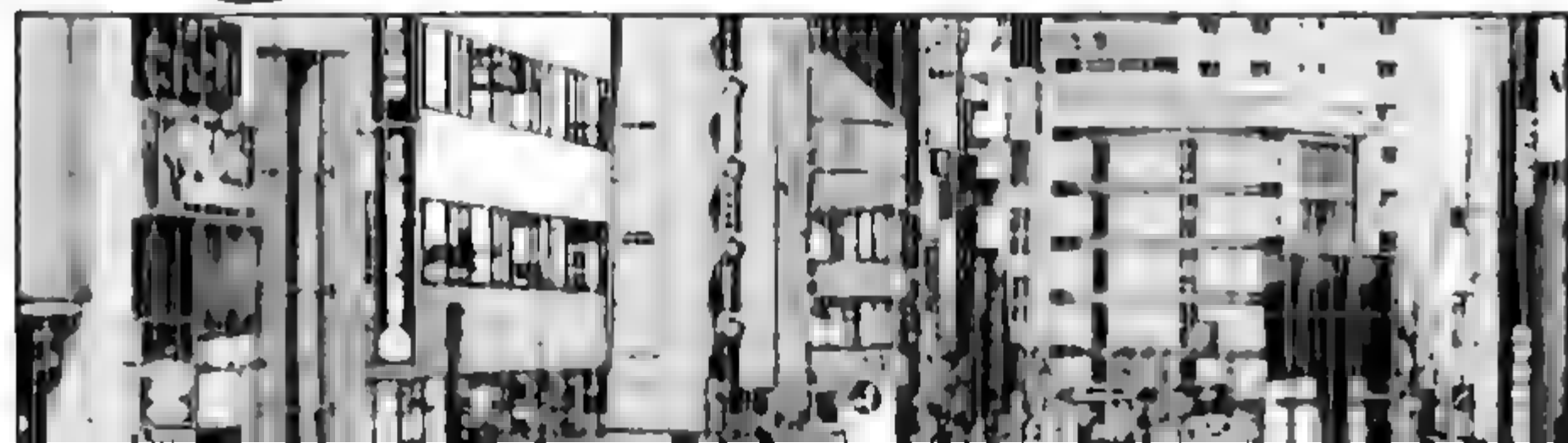
STOP
WAITING
AROUND FOR
ME AFTER
WORK AND
PRETENDING
IT'S JUST A
COINCIDENCE.

IF YOU
KEEP IT UP,
I'LL REPORT
YOU TO THE
POLICE FOR
STALKING.

OH, AND
ANOTHER
THING...



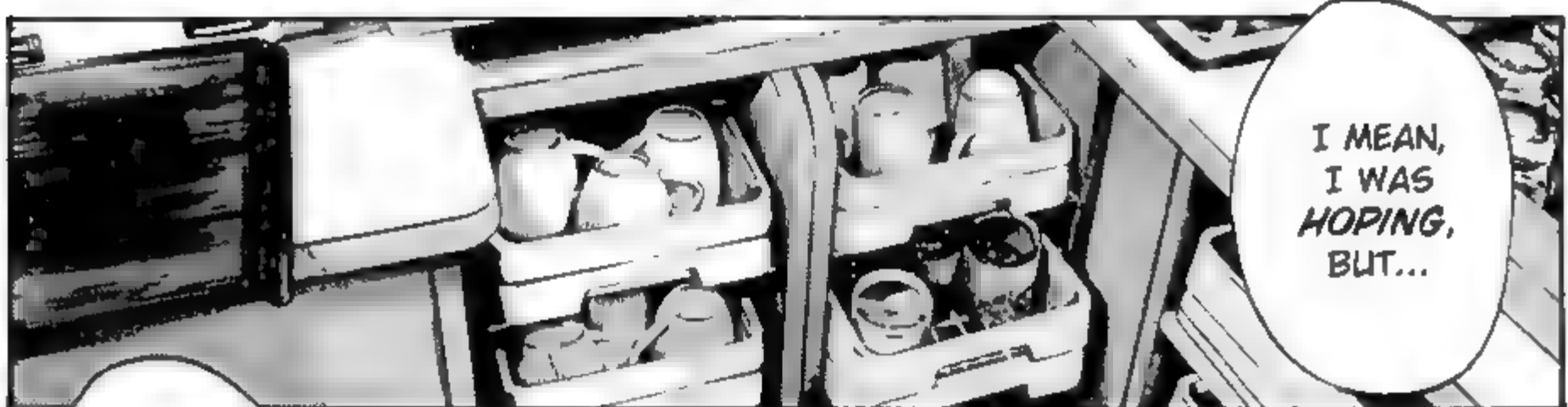






...I DIDN'T
THINK YOU'D
COME UP WITH
SOMETHING
THIS
QUICKLY.

HONESTLY
...



I MEAN,
I WAS
HOPING,
BUT...

...I WAS
FEELING
A LITTLE
GUILTY
ABOUT
BEING SO
PUSHY.

You
be?
might
not be.

It was
a strange
n all around
ilthy huma



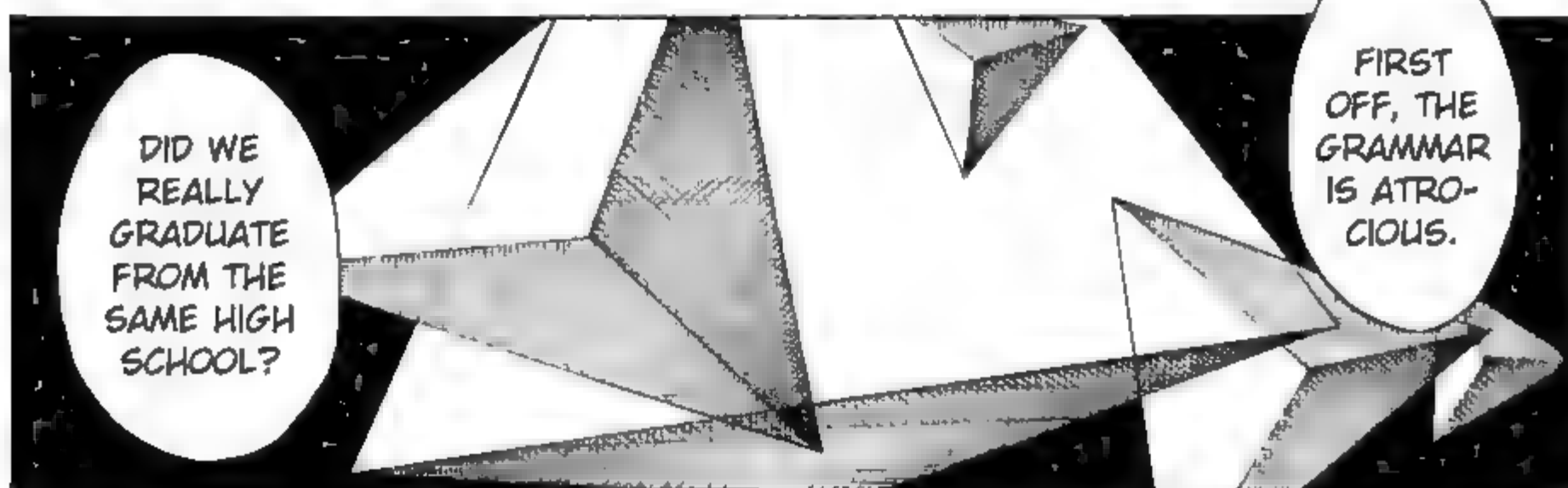
HMM...

WOW.



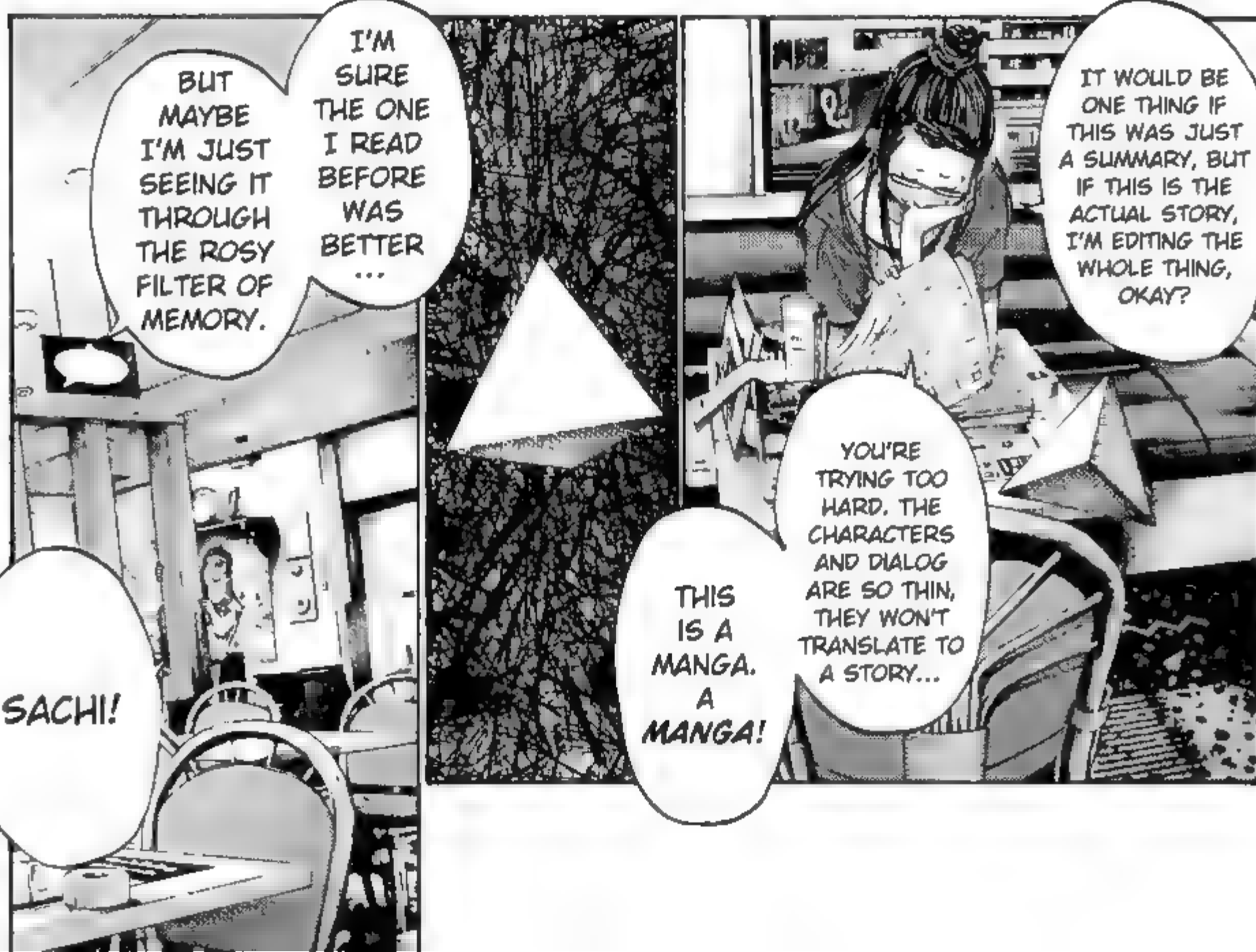
ABSOLUTELY
TERRIBLE!

IT'S
GROTESQUE!



DID WE
REALLY
GRADUATE
FROM THE
SAME HIGH
SCHOOL?

FIRST
OFF, THE
GRAMMAR
IS ATRO-
CIOUS.



BUT
MAYBE
I'M JUST
SEEING IT
THROUGH
THE ROSY
FILTER OF
MEMORY.

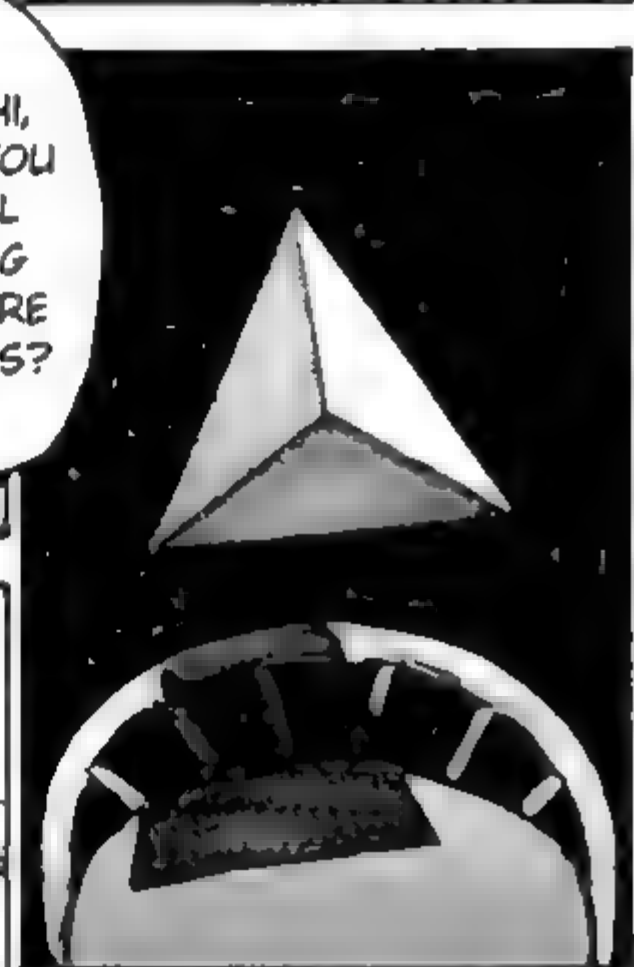
I'M
SURE
THE ONE
I READ
BEFORE
WAS
BETTER
...

IT WOULD BE
ONE THING IF
THIS WAS JUST
A SUMMARY, BUT
IF THIS IS THE
ACTUAL STORY,
I'M EDITING THE
WHOLE THING,
OKAY?

YOU'RE
TRYING TOO
HARD. THE
CHARACTERS
AND DIALOG
ARE SO THIN,
THEY WON'T
TRANSLATE TO
A STORY...

THIS
IS A
MANGA.
A
MANGA!

SACHI!





...HOW IS
"IF YOU
POLISH IT,
HE WILL
SHINE"
GOING?

WERE
YOU
RIGHT?

SO...



KANIE, I
SEE YOU'VE
SUNK TO
BEING A
CORPORATE
SLAVE.

SO WHAT?
I'VE MADE
TIME FOR YOU
OUT OF MY
SHITTY BUSY
SCHEDULE.



NO NEED
TO BE
EMBAR-
RASSED.

PUNPUN
...

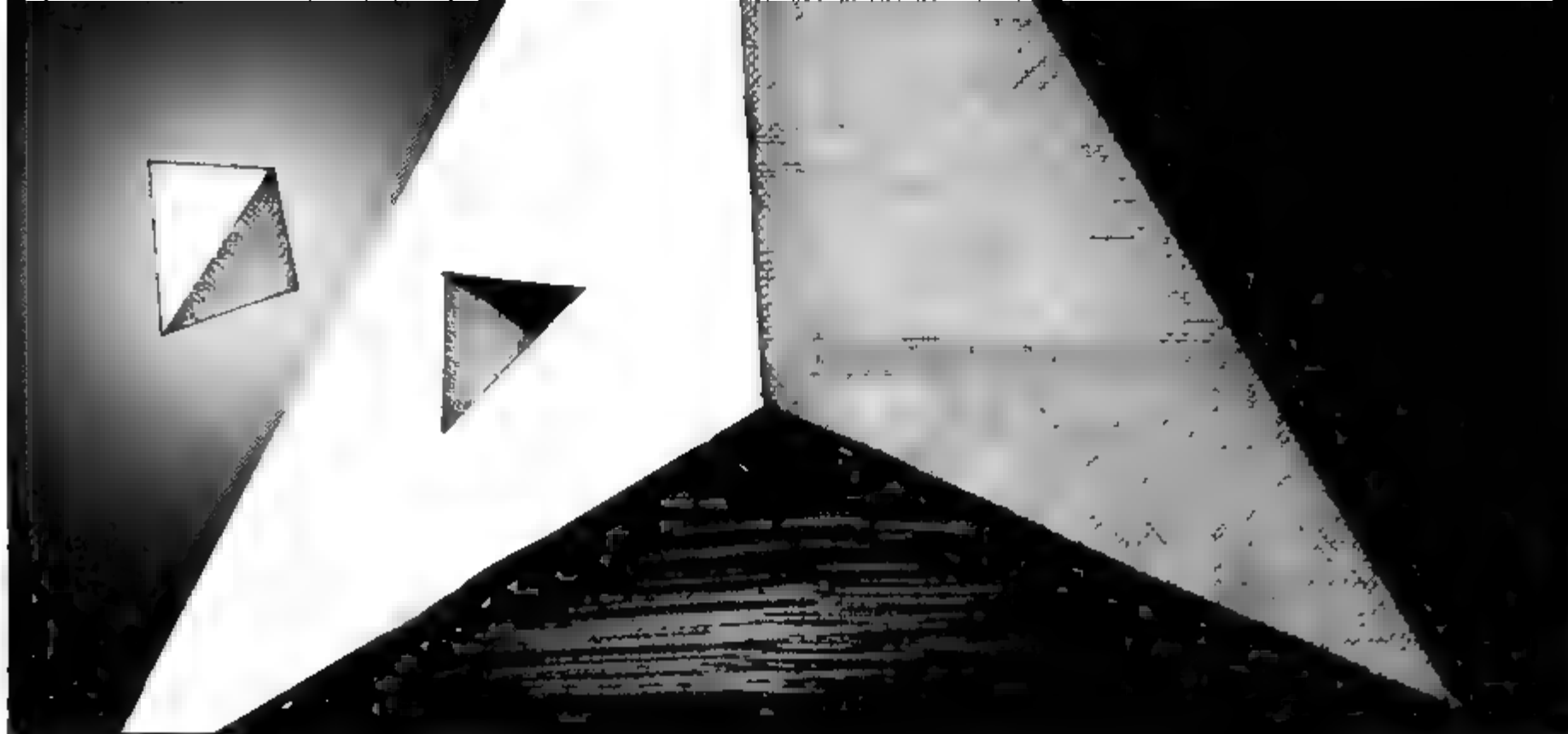
GETTING
BACK ON
TOPIC,
I THINK
YOU CAN
DO MUCH
BETTER.

JUST WRITE
LIKE YOU USED
TO, WHATEVER
COMES TO MIND
NATURALLY.



SO...

DO YOU
HAVE ANY
INTEREST IN
REWRITING
IT?



"I think it's best
for both of us if
I don't take this
any further."





SHE'S
PUSHY,
OVER-
BEARING
AND
RUDE.

SHE'S
A SELF-
ACTUAL-
IZATION
DEMON.

ONCE
SACHI
STARTS
ON A
PROJECT,
SHE WON'T
LET UP.



WHAT A
CATAS-
TROPHE.
I FEEL
SORRY
FOR YOU,
ONODERA.

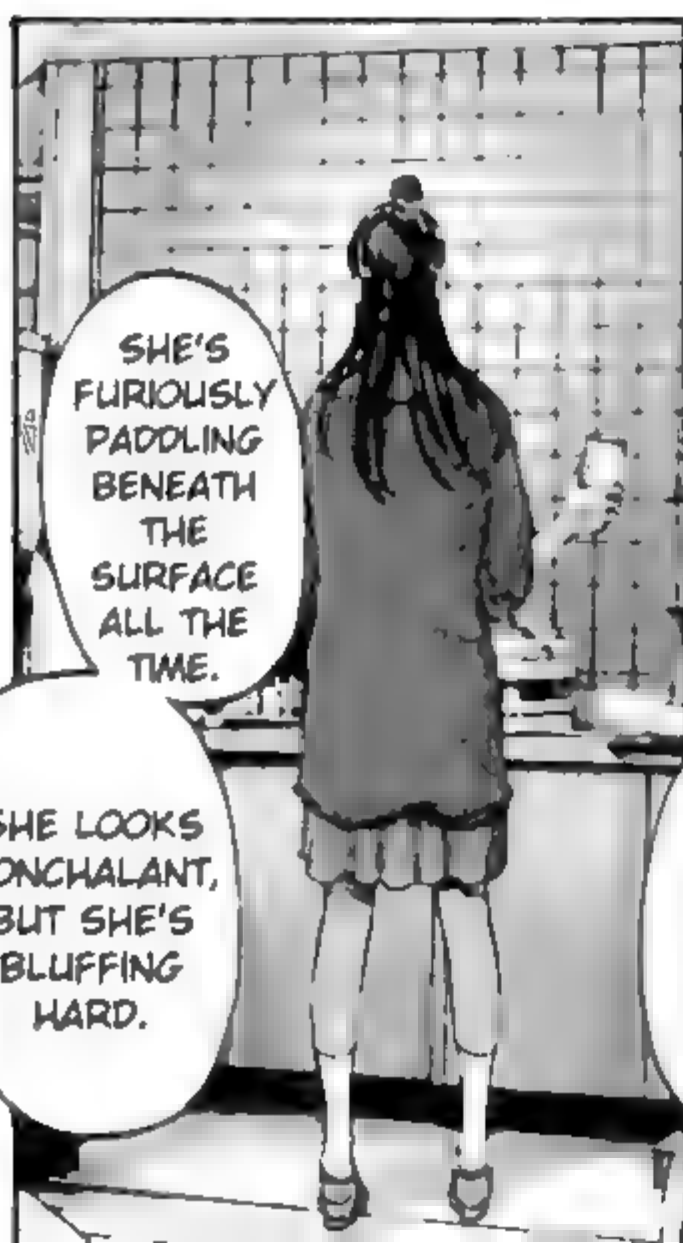
HMM.



WELL,
SACHI THINKS
SHE'S TRYING
TO RESCUE
YOU...

AND
SHE REALLY
DOES SEE
PROMISE IN
YOU. TRUST
ME ON THAT.

BUT
SHE WAS
REALLY
HAPPY
THAT SHE
RAN IN-
TO YOU
AGAIN.



SHE'S
FURIOUSLY
PADDLING
BENEATH
THE
SURFACE
ALL THE
TIME.

SHE LOOKS
NONCHALANT,
BUT SHE'S
BLUFFING
HARD.



...BUT
I'M
HOPING
YOU CAN
RESCUE
HER.



ONCE
AN UGLY
DUCKLING
AND ALL
THAT.

...IN A
LOT OF
WAYS.

SHE'S
LIKE A
SWAN...



IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL, SHE WON TONS OF AWARDS, LIKE THE GOVERNOR'S PRIZE, FOR HER DRAWINGS.

I'VE KNOWN HER SINCE WE WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ...

...AND SHE'S ALWAYS HAD A SKETCH-BOOK WITH HER.



SHE STARTED AT WASEDA UNIVERSITY WITH ME, BUT THEN SHE ENDED UP DROPPING OUT.

SHE HAD PRETENSIONS OF GENIUS. WELL, SHE REALLY WAS VERY TALENTED.

BUT IT DIDN'T LAST. IT JUST SUDDENLY DRIED UP.



I THINK IT'S TIME TO PUT AN END TO HER DELUSIONS.

SHE'S TALKING ABOUT ILLUSTRATING PICTURE BOOKS AS A HOBBY...

...BUT WHAT IS SHE REALLY THINKING?



SHE WAS WORKING HARD IN COLLEGE TOWARDS THAT GOAL, AND SHE WAS REALLY CLOSE TO LANDING A SERIES, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT.

TO BE A MANGA ARTIST.



...WHAT DO YOU THINK SACHI'S REAL DREAM WAS AS A KID?

BY THE WAY...



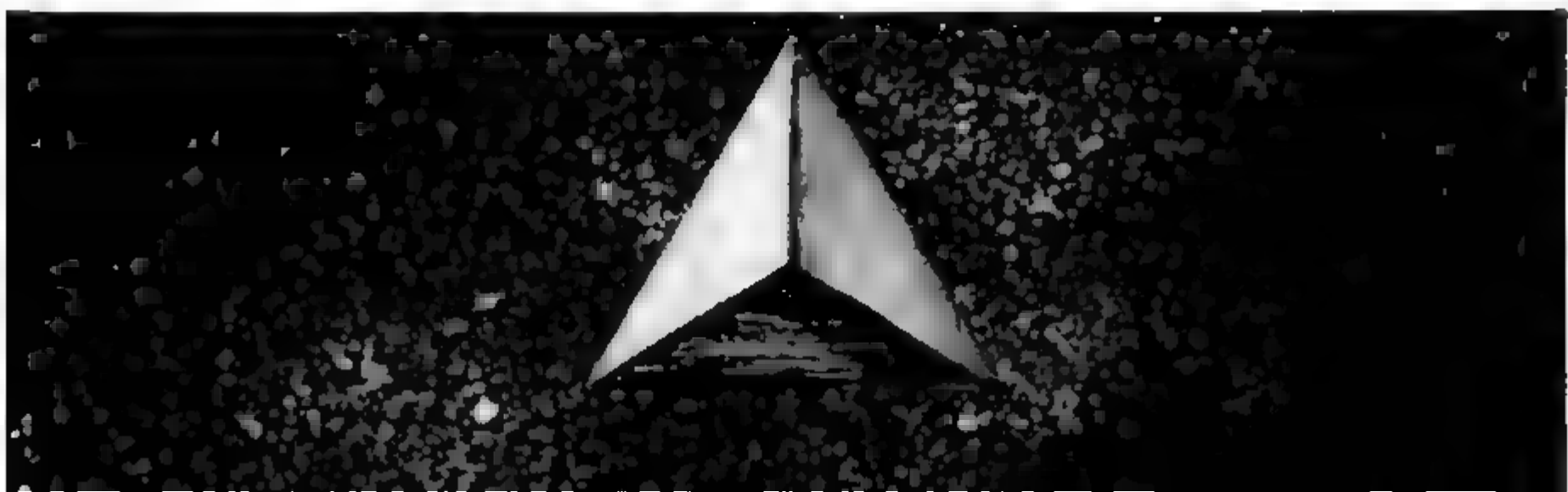
THE FAILURE WAS TOO MUCH FOR HER, AND SHE'S REPRESSED IT.

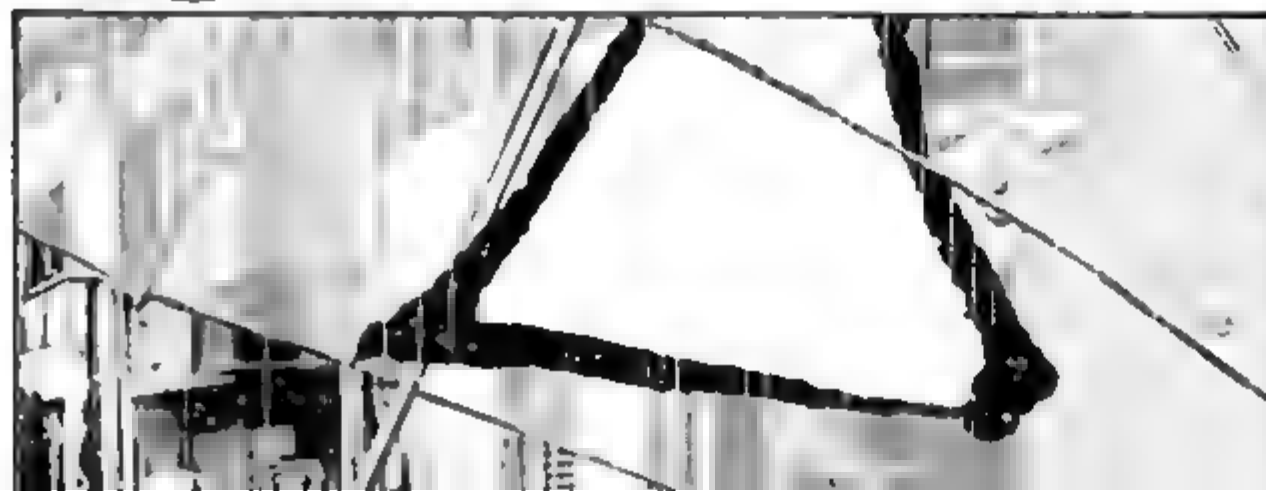


...ABOUT HOW SHE WAS GOING TO DESTROY THE WORLD WITH HER MANGA.

SHE CAN'T WRITE STORIES.

SHE USED TO GET ALL WORKED UP...





"I'm going to go home early and do a rewrite."

"Does it
have to
be manga,
Nanjo?"

SIGH...

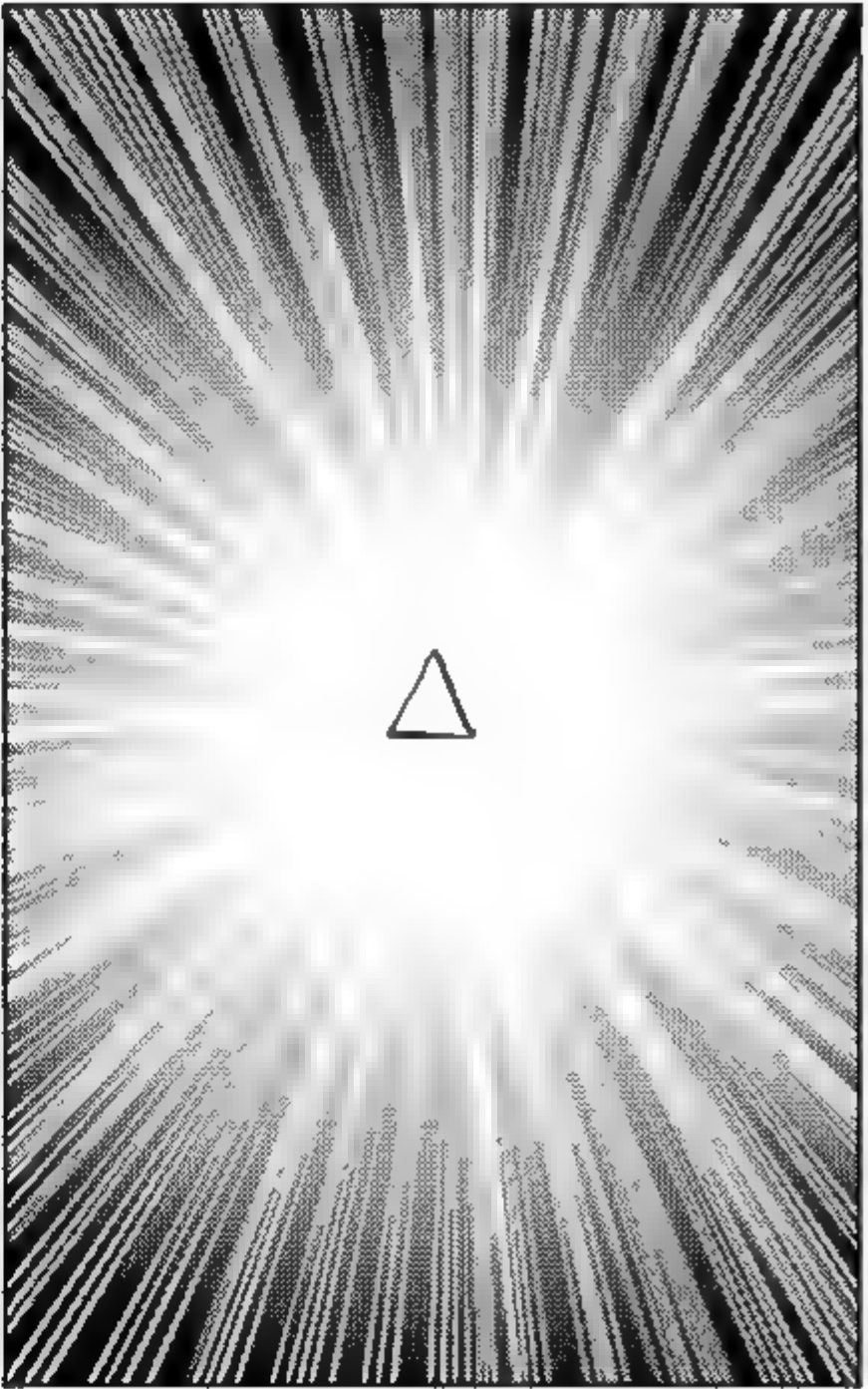
KANIE
TOLD
YOU,
DIDN'T
SHE?

MMMM.

MMMM.







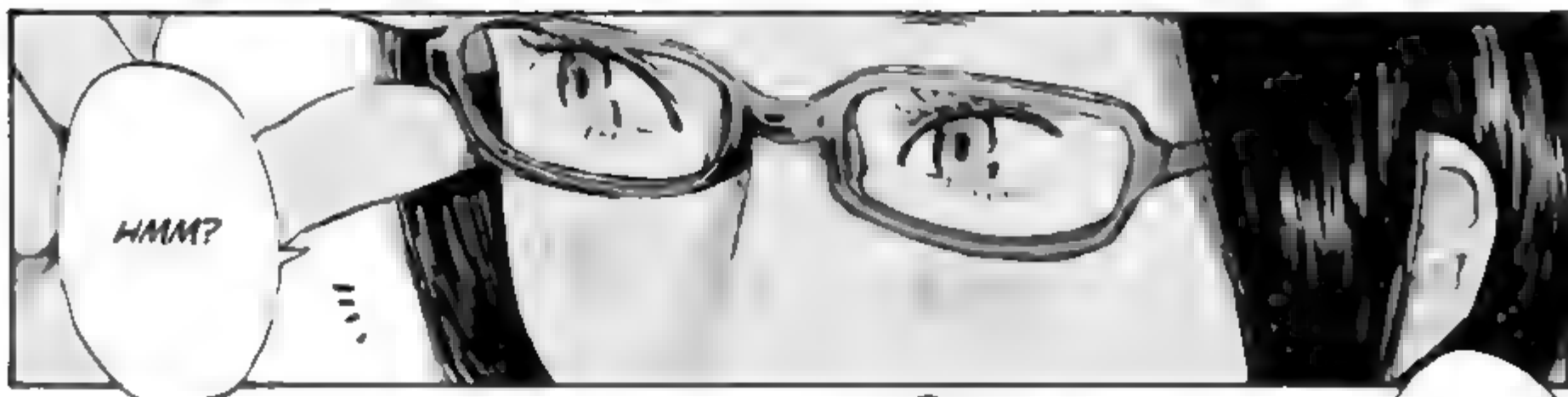




AHEM.

IT'S
CRAPPY
ON THE
OUTSIDE
BUT NICE
AND CLEAN
INSIDE.

HEY,
THIS IS
NICE.



HMM?



OOPS
...

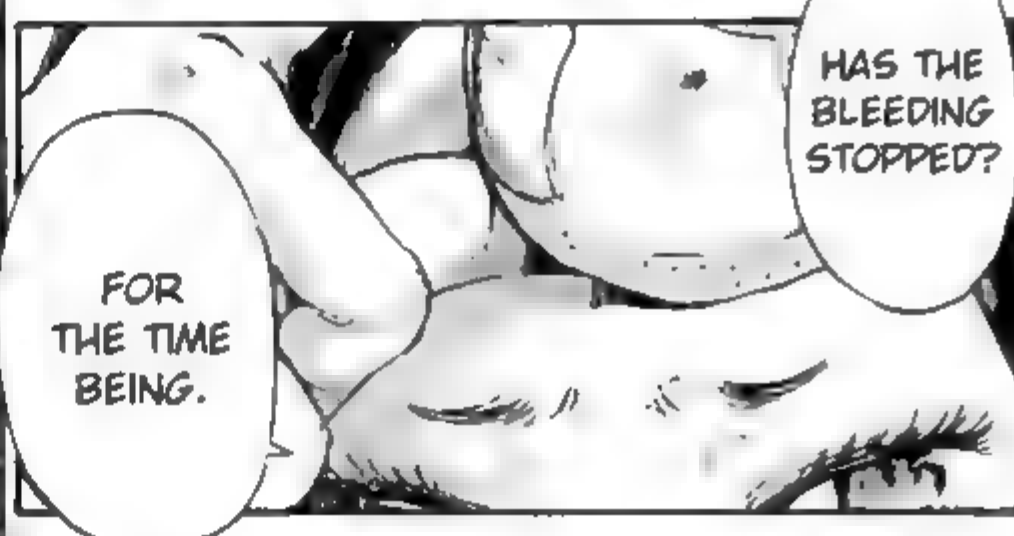
...
WHOA
...

...
WHOA.

OWW!

I'VE GOT
AN OLD
BALANCED
FLUE TUB
AND IT
SUCKS.

NO
WAY, THE
BATHROOM
IS NEW?





THERE'S
THIS GUY AT
WORK WHO'S
KIND OF
STALKING ME,
AND HE FOUND
OUT WHERE
I LIVE.

IT'S
CREEPY, BUT
IT PISSES ME
OFF TO MOVE
BECAUSE OF
HIM.

SO, SACHI,
WHAT DO
YOU WANT
TO DO? DO
YOU WANT
IT?

UHM.

IF YOU
DON'T DECIDE
QUICKLY,
SOMEONE
ELSE MIGHT
GRAB IT.



ARE YOU
CHANGING
JOBS,
SACHI?

HUH?

...THAT
APARTMENT
SEEMED
LIKE A GOOD
PLACE TO
WORK.

BUT...



NO,
NO, IT'S
NOTHING.

OH.



...BUT
DO YOU
HAVE ANY
INTEREST IN
WORKING
HERE PART-
TIME?

I KNOW
I ASKED
YOU
BEFORE,
PUNPUN...

SPEAK-
ING OF
WORK...

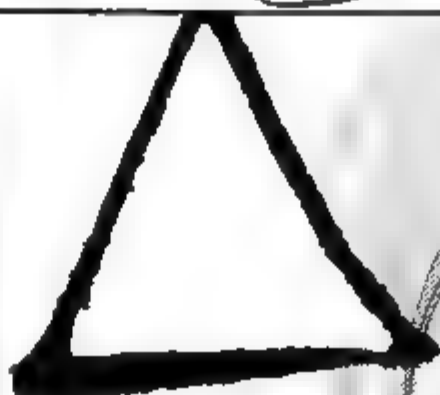


"I'm sorry,
I don't
understand
it either."

PUNPUN,
YOU'RE
YOUNG.
YOU
GET IT,
RIGHT?

...BUT
I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
ANY OF
IT.

APPARENTLY
THE THING TO
DO NOW IS
PUT ALL YOUR
LISTINGS IN A
DATABASE..



JUST
THINK
OF THIS
OLD GUY
AS THE
GOLDEN
GOOSE.

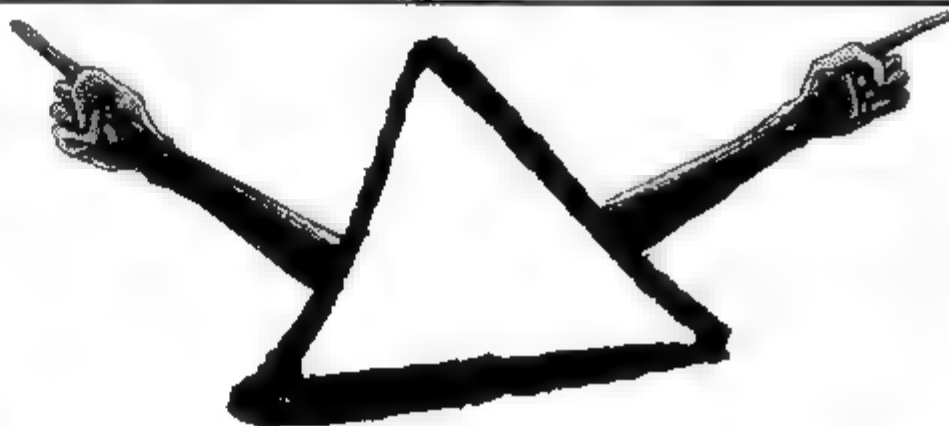
YOU
HAVE TO
APPRECIATE
ANY WORK
COMING
YOUR WAY
THESE
DAYS.

IF
YOU KEEP
GOING ON
LIKE THAT,
I'M GOING
TO SLAP
YOU.

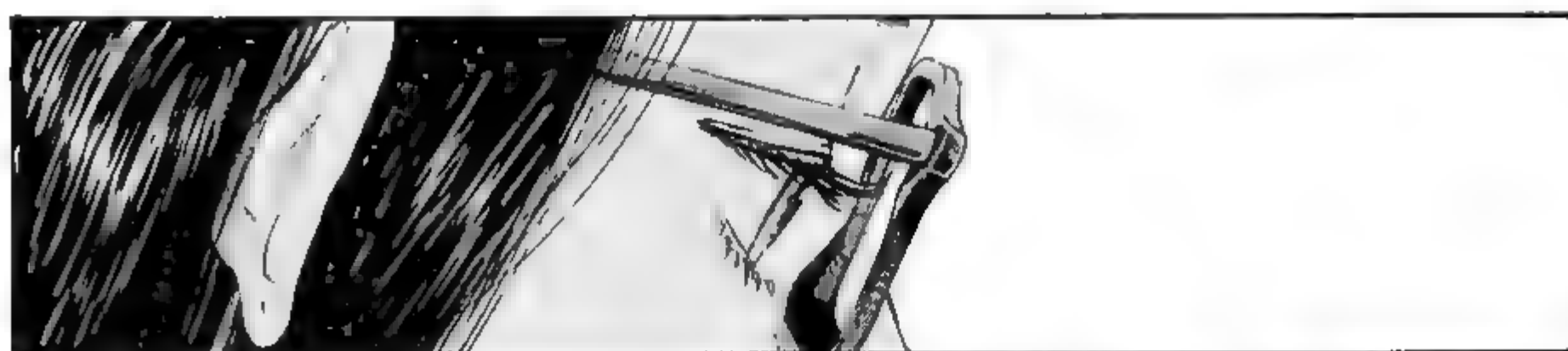
GEEZ,
THERE
YOU GO
AGAIN. "I
CAN'T, I
CAN'T..."

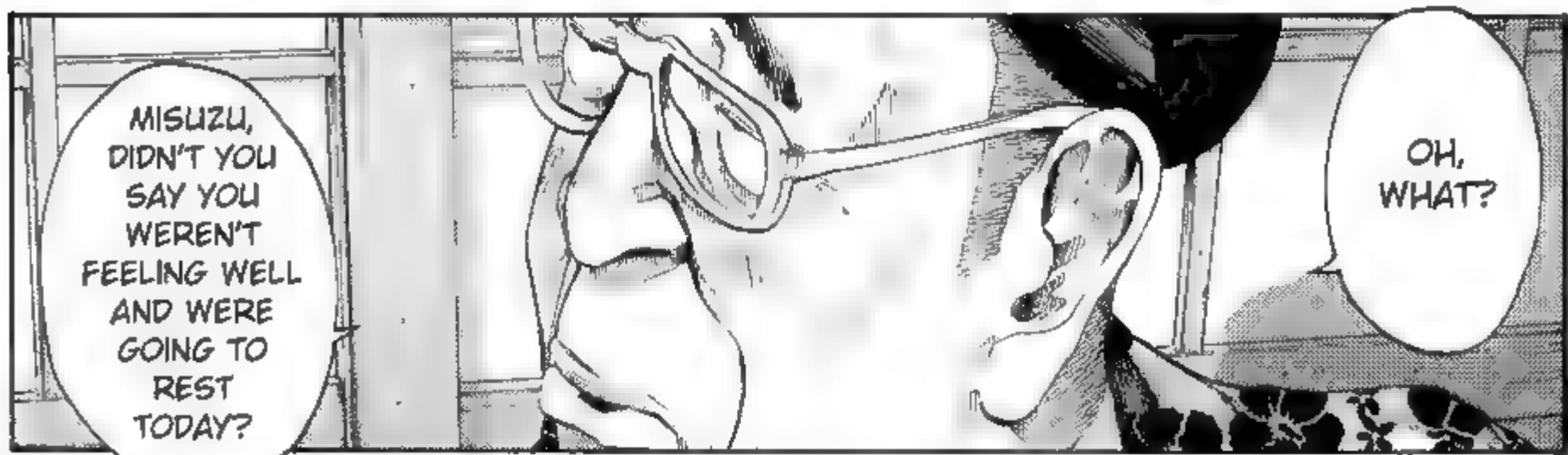
YOU
TWO GET
ALONG
REALLY
WELL.

YOU
SHOULD
DATE.



"I'll
do it."









GARBAGE
IS
GARBAGE,
NO MATTER
WHAT YEAR
IT IS.

YOU
DON'T GET
TO ACT SO
SUPERIOR
...

YOU'RE
SO
NAIVE!

...WHILE
YOU HIDE
FROM
REALITY.



ISN'T
THAT
A BIT
MUCH?

W-
WAIT...

...A
MINUTE.



HOW'S HE
GOING TO
LEARN IF
I DON'T
SAY IT?



OHH...

WELL,
SURE...

IT'S BEST
TO KEEP
THINGS
SIMPLE FOR
IDIOTS.

...BUT
BEING
NASTY LIKE
THAT JUST
BETRAYS
YOUR
ROOTS.



CIRCUM-
STANCES?

PUNPLIN
MIGHT BE
A FEW
CARDS
SHORT OF
A FULL
DECK...

THERE'S NO
CIRCUM-
STANCE ON
EARTH THAT
MAKES IT
OKAY FOR
A HEALTHY
YOUNG MAN
TO LOAF
AROUND.

...BUT I TAKE
EXCEPTION
TO YOU
CRITICIZING
AN ENTIRE
GENERATION
WITHOUT UN-
DERSTANDING
THE CIRCUM-
STANCES.



OF
COURSE!

HE
CAN GET
LOADS OF
BENEFITS
FROM ALL
THE TAXES
I PAY.

HO.

HO-
WEE.

OKAY, SO
WHAT IF
HE FORCES
HIMSELF TO
GO TO WORK
AND THEN
BECOMES A
MEMBER OF
THE WORKING
POOR...

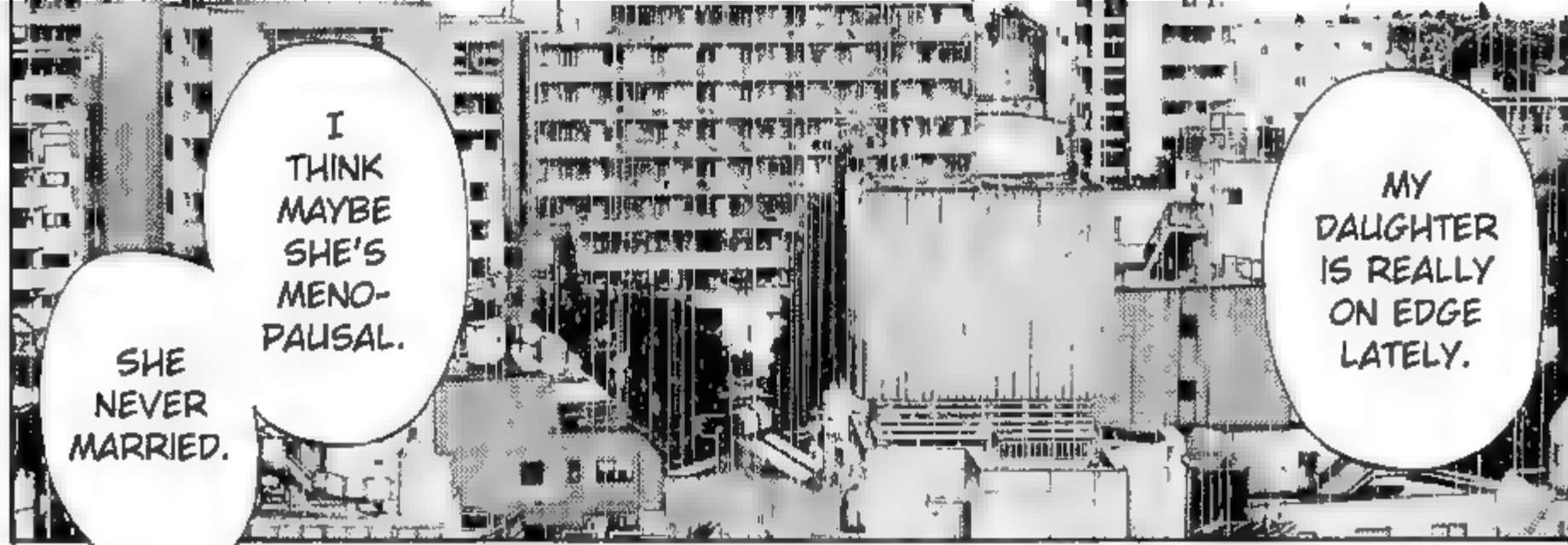
...AND HE
BECOMES
SICK AND
DEPRESSED.
CAN I HOLD
YOU RESPON-
SIBLE FOR
THAT?



CALM
DOWN,
BOTH OF
YOU.

THERE,
THERE,
THERE.





SHE
NEVER
MARRIED.

I
THINK
MAYBE
SHE'S
MENO-
PAUSAL.

MY
DAUGHTER
IS REALLY
ON EDGE
LATELY.



IT'S
BEEN
A...

...LONG
RAINY
SEASON
THIS
YEAR.



I'LL CALL
YOU WHEN
MY DAUGH-
TER'S NOT
AROUND.

PUNPUN,
STOP BY
AGAIN.



I'LL TRY
NOT TO
SHOW IT
TO ANYONE
ELSE.

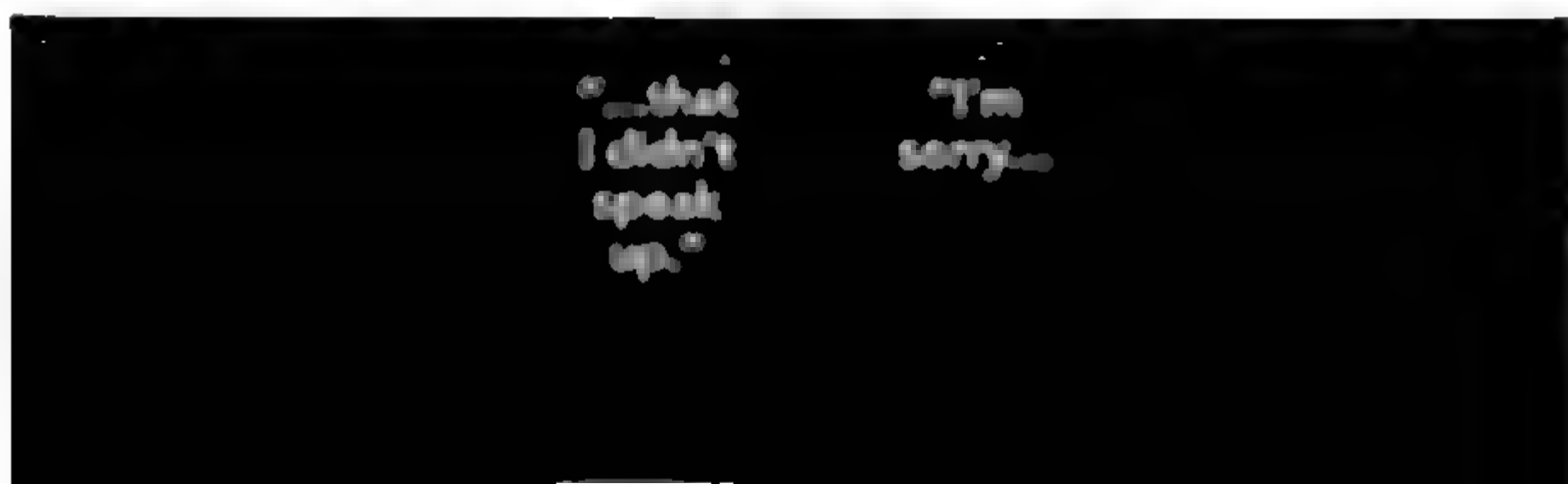
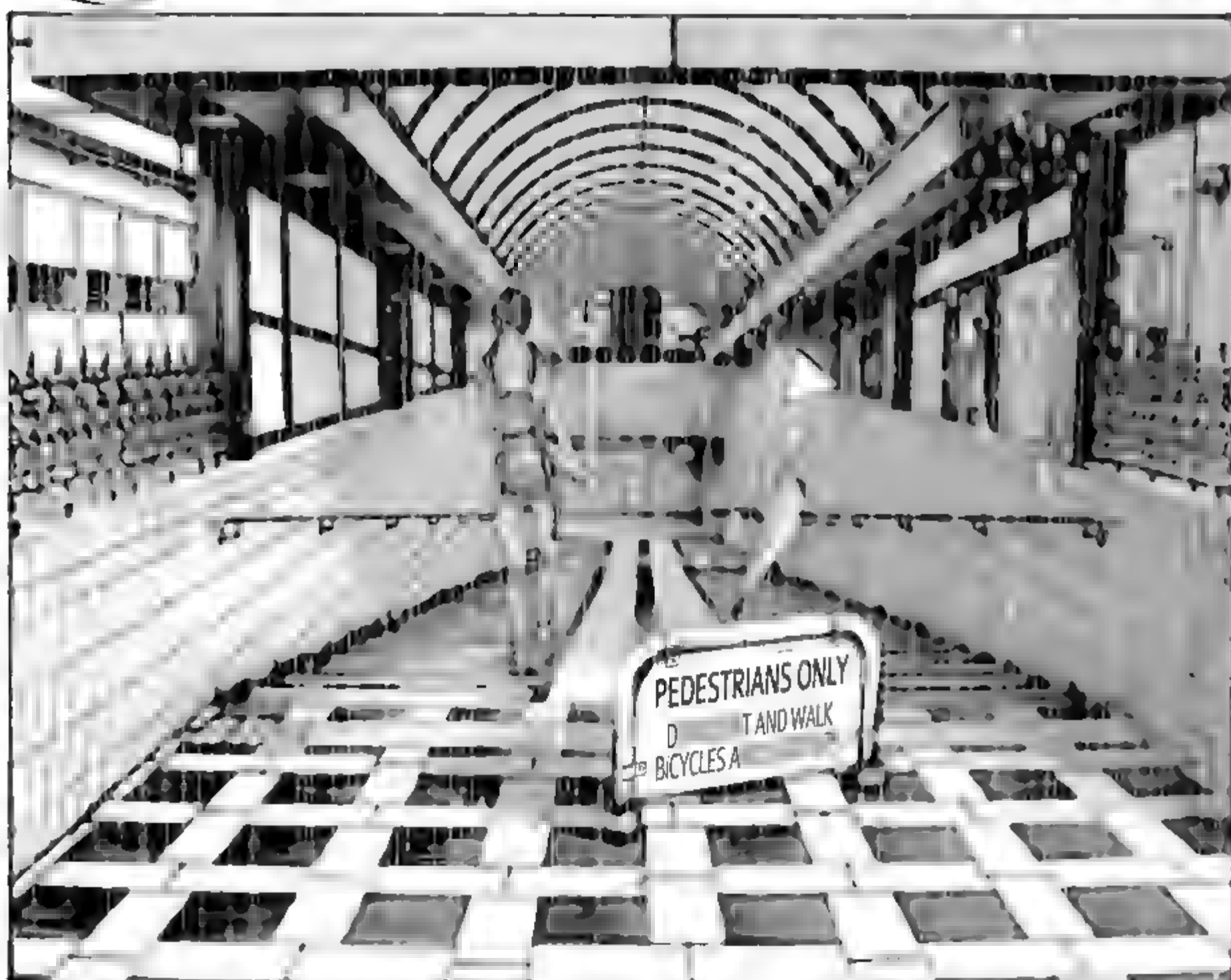
SO,
SACHI,
GIVE THAT
APART-
MENT
SOME
THOUGHT.

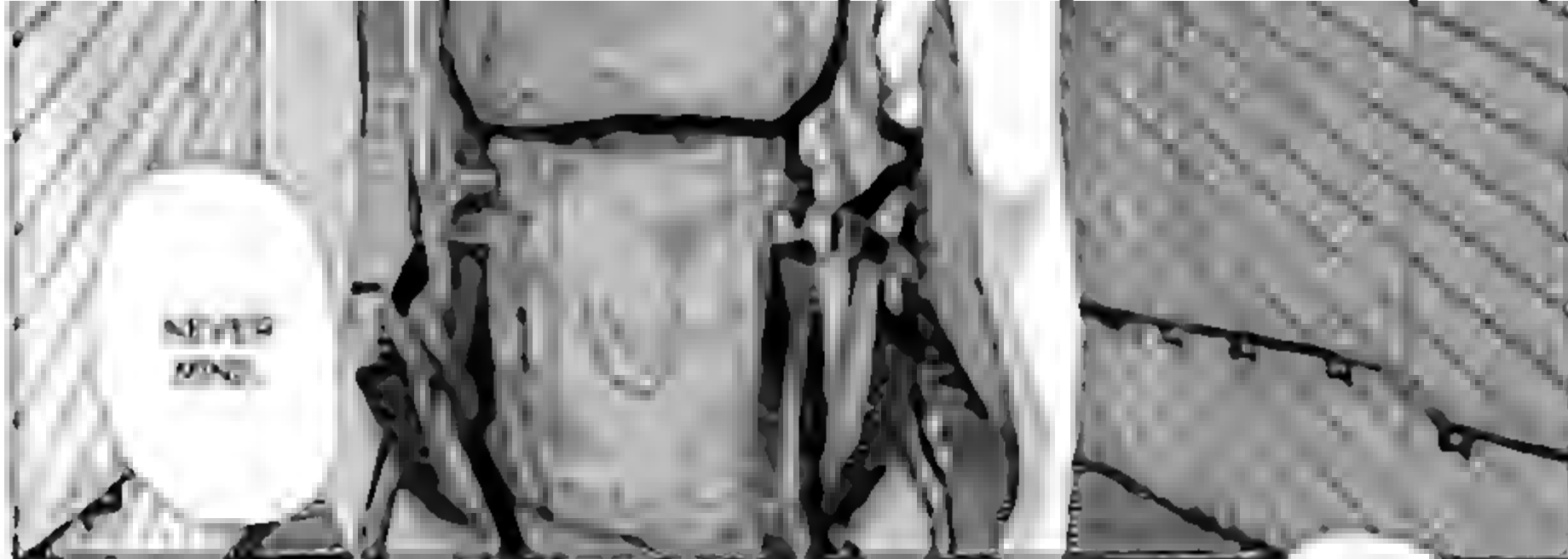


YEAH.

YOU'RE
TOO
NICE, MR.
SHISHIDO.







NEVER
MIND.



APOLOGIES
ARE
CHEAP.



I DON'T
WANT
YOU TO
MISUNDER-
STAND.

I DIDN'T
SAY ALL
THAT FOR
YOU.




I WAS
PRETTY
DISAP-
POINTED...

YOU DIDN'T
SPEAK UP.

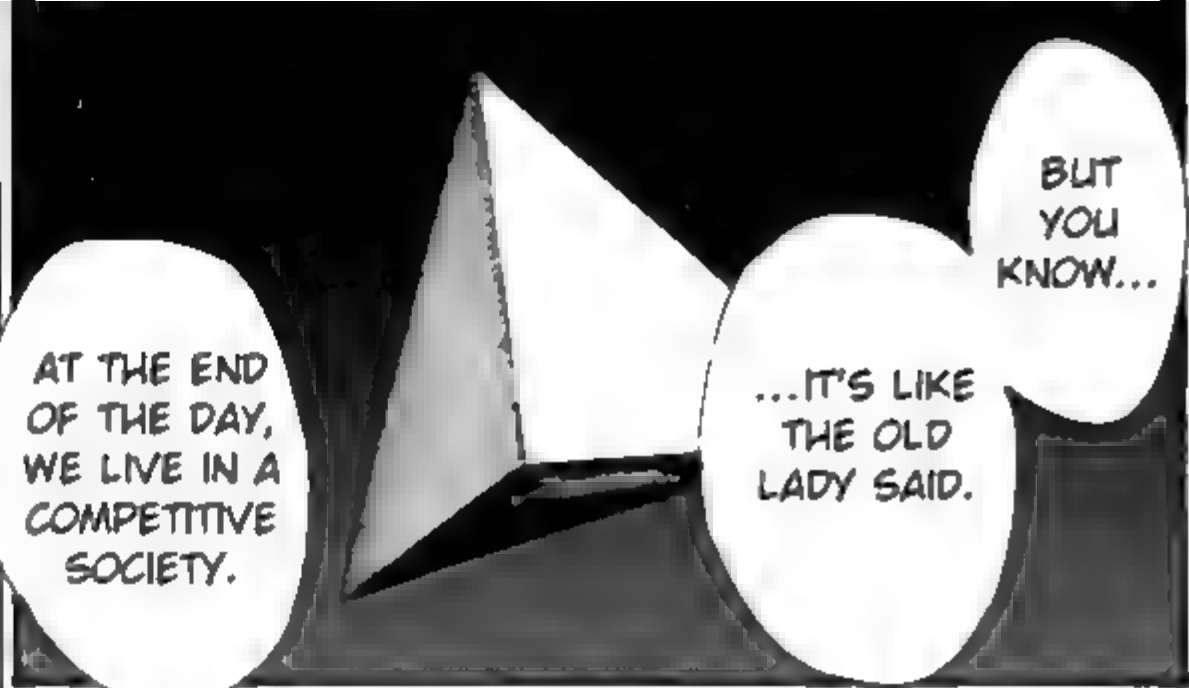
I
FELT LIKE
SHE WAS
CRITICIZING
WHO I
USED TO
BE.

I
COULDN'T
TAKE IT!



AND
JUSTIFYING
IT WITH THE
FACT THAT
YOU AREN'T
GOOD AT
COMMUNICAT-
ING WITH
PEOPLE...

...IS SELF-
INDULGENT.



AT THE END
OF THE DAY,
WE LIVE IN A
COMPETITIVE
SOCIETY.

...IT'S LIKE
THE OLD
LADY SAID.

BUT
YOU
KNOW...




...IS SO
PATHETIC.

OPTING
OUT
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
AFRAID TO
LOSE...



...THEN,
BY ALL
MEANS,
GO
AHEAD.

BUT
IF YOU
WANT TO
USE YOUR
TROUBLED
CHILDHOOD
AS AN
EXCUSE...

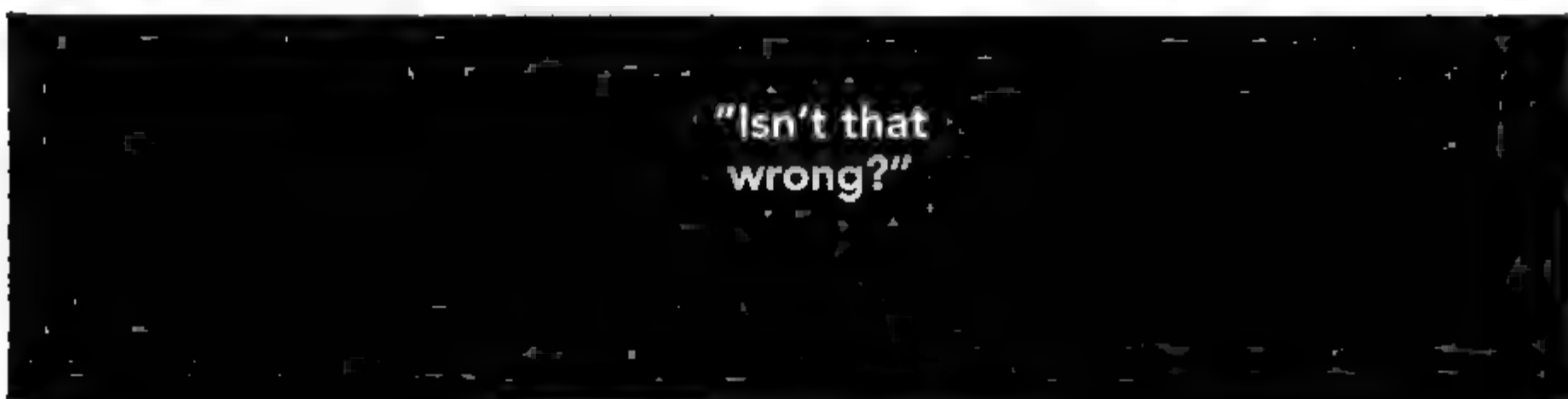
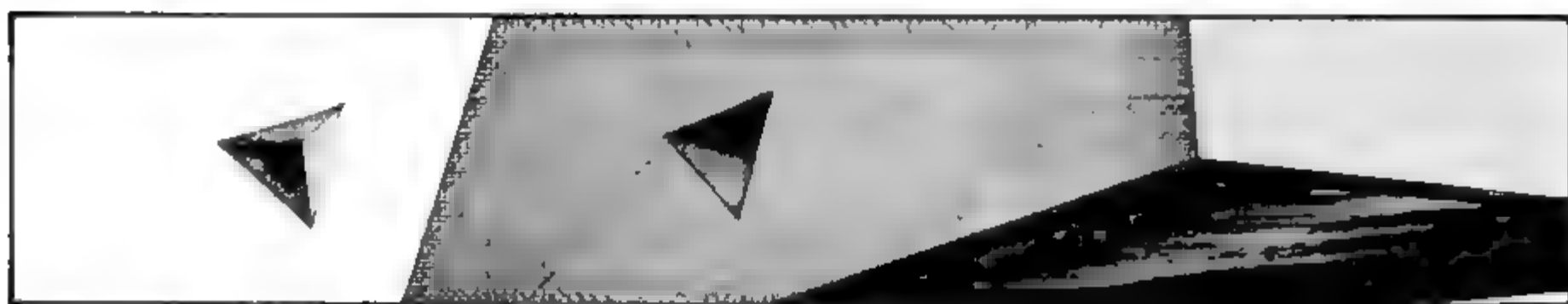


BUT I
HAVE TO
DO IT!

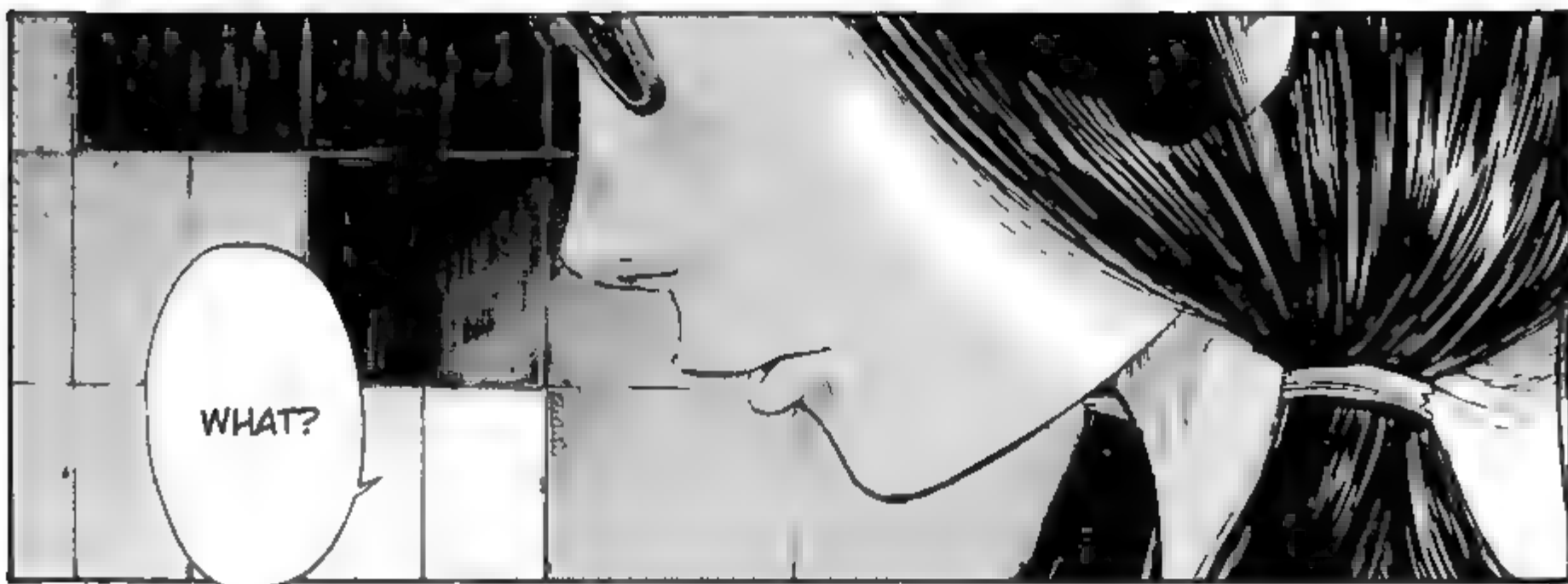
I'M SURE
SOMEONE LIKE
YOU WHO JUST
ROLLS OVER
AND GIVES UP
WILL NEVER
UNDERSTAND.

HOW I
LIVE NOW
IS WHAT'S
MOST
IMPORTANT
TO ME...

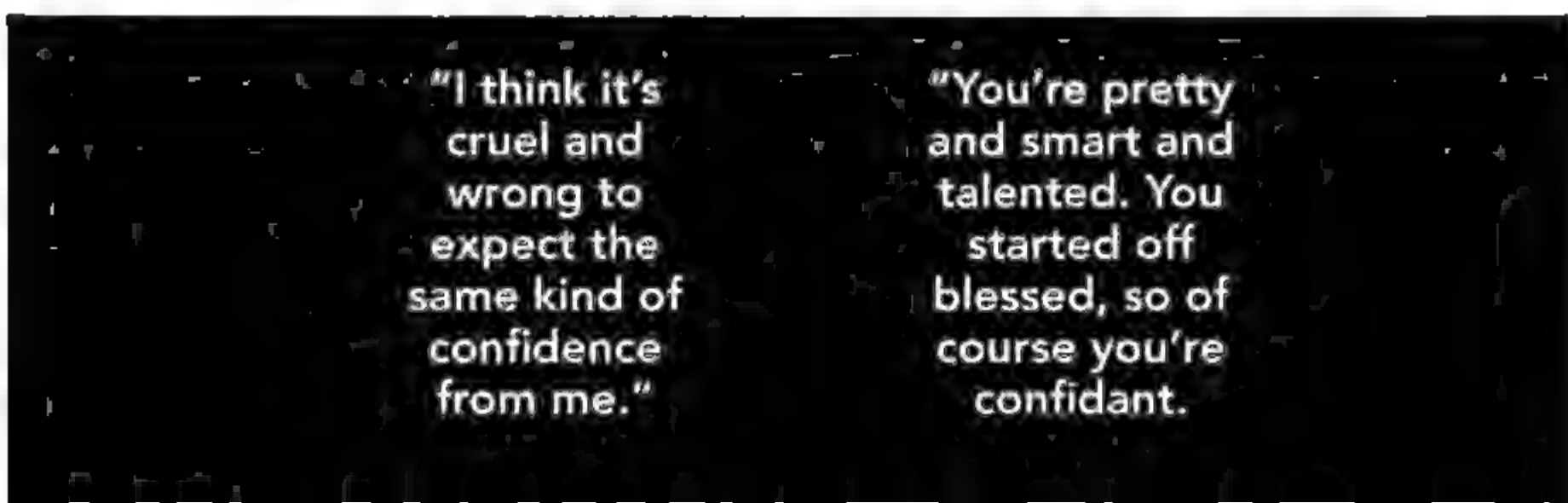
...SO
TRYING AND
LOSING
IS MUCH
SCARIER TO
ME THAN
DYING.



"Isn't that wrong?"

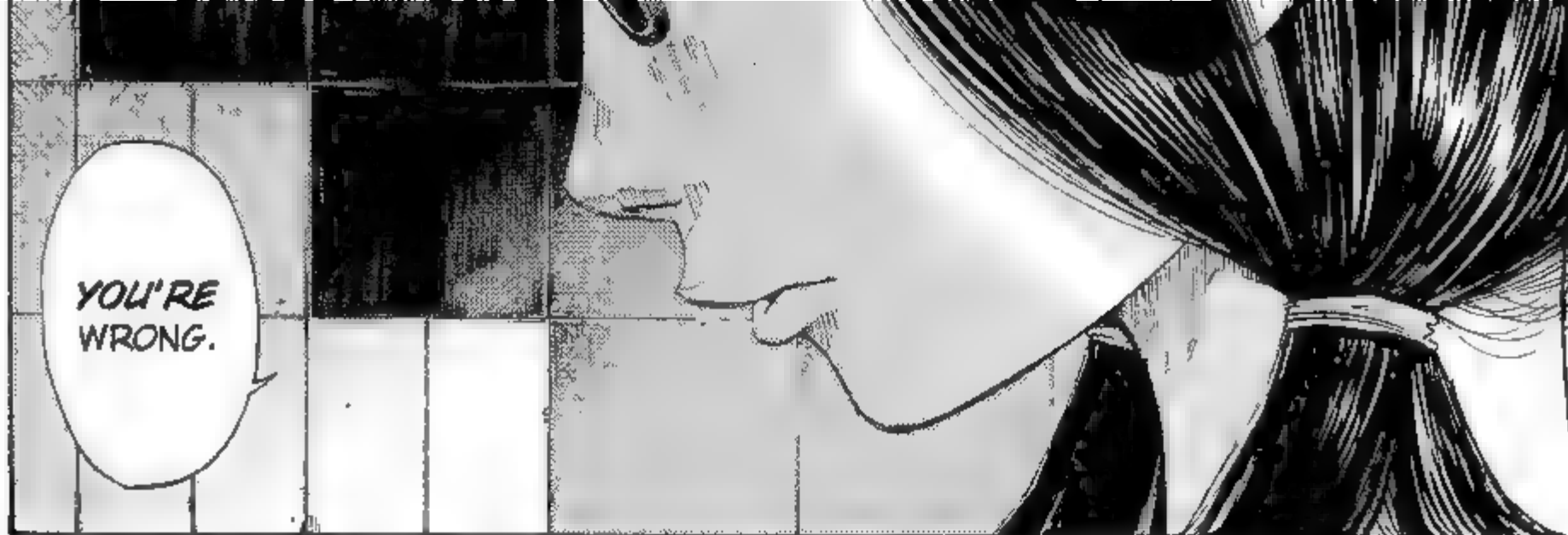


WHAT?



"I think it's cruel and wrong to expect the same kind of confidence from me."

"You're pretty and smart and talented. You started off blessed, so of course you're confident."

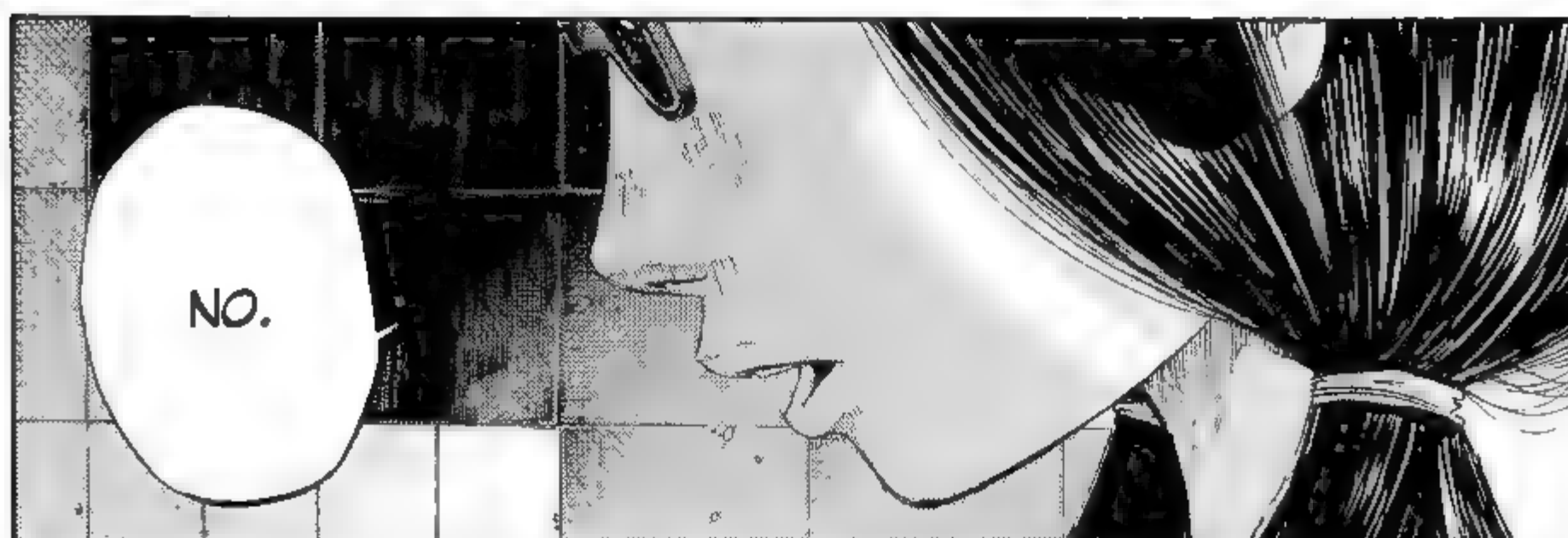


YOU'RE
WRONG.

"...and
just saying
whatever
you want and
looking down
on me."

"...ignoring
people's
feelings..."

"How
nice for
you..."



NO.

"Please
just stop
picking
on me."



PUNPUN.



...TO
TELL YOU
ANY OF
THIS.

I
REALLY...

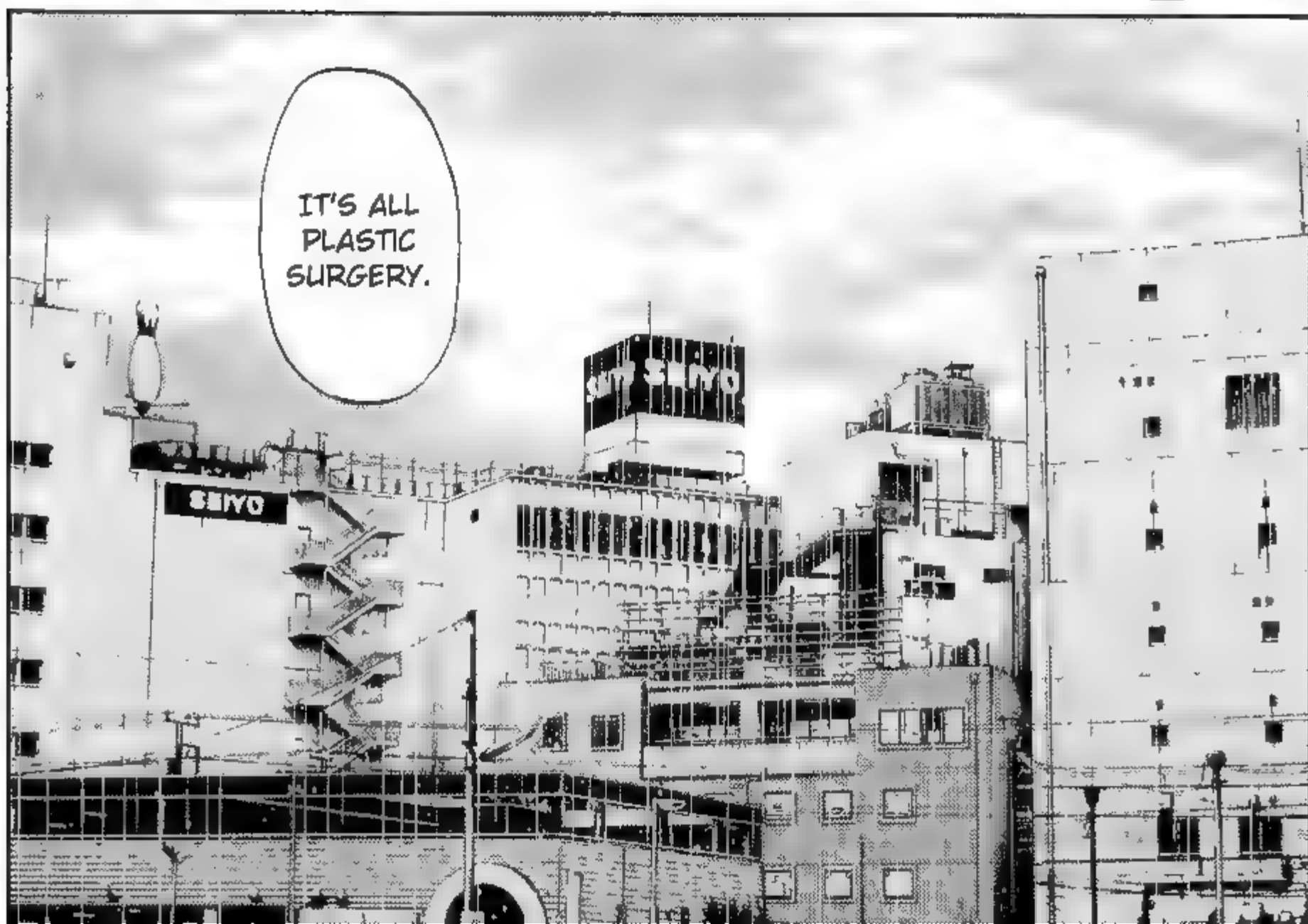
...DIDN'T
WANT...



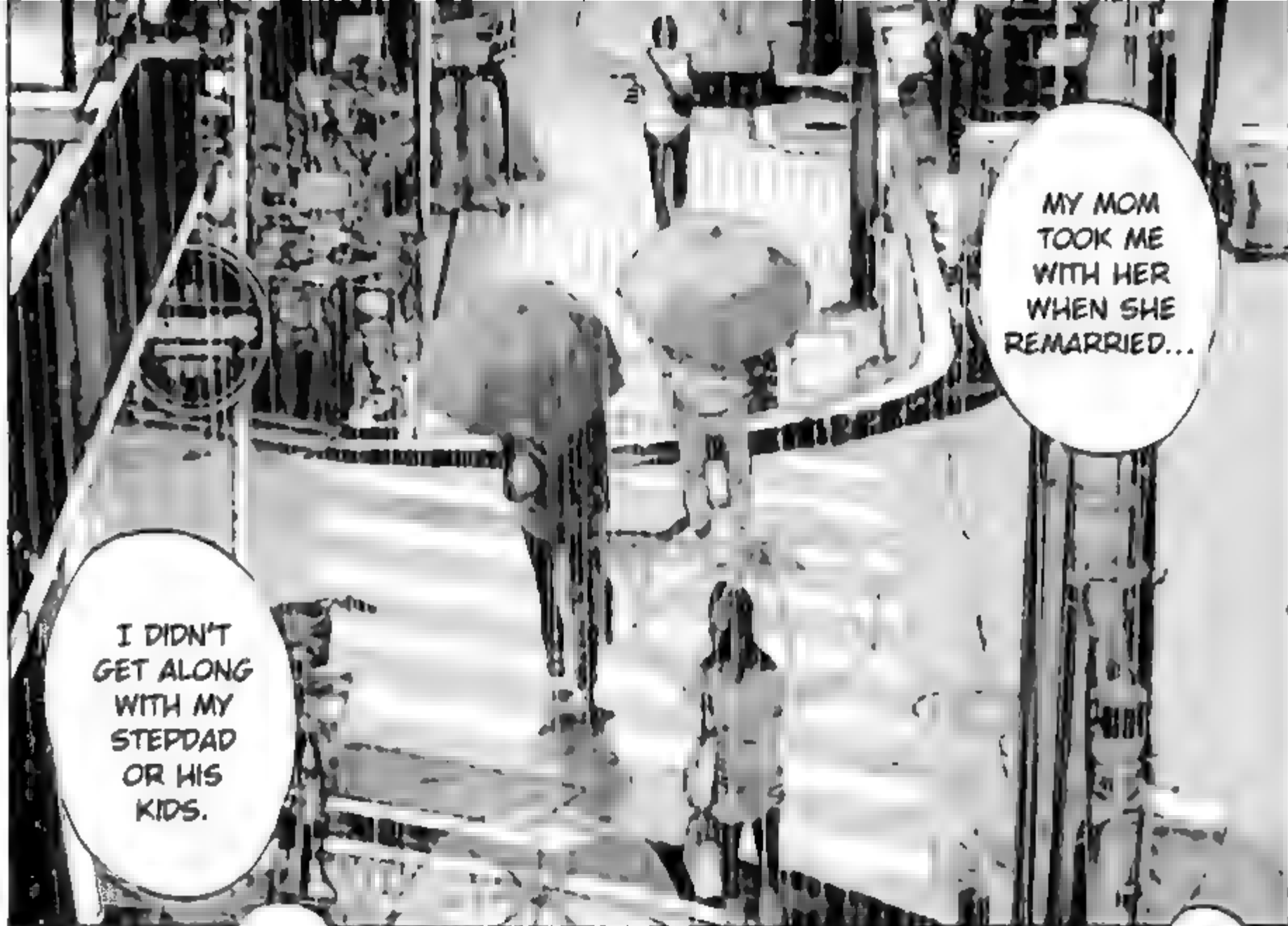
I...



MY
FACE.



IT'S ALL
PLASTIC
SURGERY.



I DIDN'T
GET ALONG
WITH MY
STEPPAD
OR HIS
KIDS.

MY MOM
TOOK ME
WITH HER
WHEN SHE
REMARRIED...



THAT'S ALL
I HEARD
GROWING
UP.

UGLY
...

STUPID
...

FATSO
...



...AND
THEN I
GOT MY
EYES...

... NOSE
...

... CHEEKS
...

EVERYTHING
I DIDN'T LIKE,
I HAD
REDONE.

AS
SOON AS
I GOT INTO
COLLEGE,
I WORKED
MY ASS OFF
IN NIGHT-
CLUBS...

SO I
STUCK MY
FINGER
DOWN MY
THROAT AS
OFTEN AS
I COULD
...

...AND
STUDIED
LIKE I WAS
POSSESSED.

I
KNOW
I NEED
MONEY
AND
LOVE...

...SO OF
COURSE I
WANT TO
BE SUC-
CESSFUL.

DREAMS
ARE
MEANT
TO BE
FUL-
FILLED.

FUCK
THE
PAST.

MY
BRAIN
...

...MY
BODY...

I
CHOSE
THEM.

AND NO
ONE TELLS
ME WHAT
TO DO.

...MY
LIFE.

IT'S A
SIMPLISTIC,
STUPID
MOTIVATION,
BUT MY
CONFIDENCE
IS BASED ON
MOVING
FORWARD.





I HAVE
IDEALS.

I'LL
DO WHAT
I HAVE
TO...

...AND
I THINK
THAT'S
THE BEST
ME I CAN
BE.



IT'S LIKE
WATCHING
THE ME
THAT I LEFT
BEHIND...

...AND IT
MAKES
ME FEEL
GUILTY.

WHEN I
SEE YOU UN-
ABLE TO MAKE
A MOVE BE-
CAUSE YOU'RE
SO SAD AND
ANXIOUS...

IT'S NOT
SO MUCH
THAT IT'S
IRRITAT-
ING.



THAT'S
WHY I
CAN'T
FORGIVE
YOU...

...AND
WHY I
CAN'T
LEAVE YOU
ALONE.

YOUR
ANXIETIES
AND
DEPRESSION
HAVE NO
ROOT.

I UNDER-
STAND THAT
SO MUCH
BETTER
THAN YOU.



YOU'RE
LUCKY.

"ONCE
AN UGLY
DUCKLING
AND ALL
THAT."

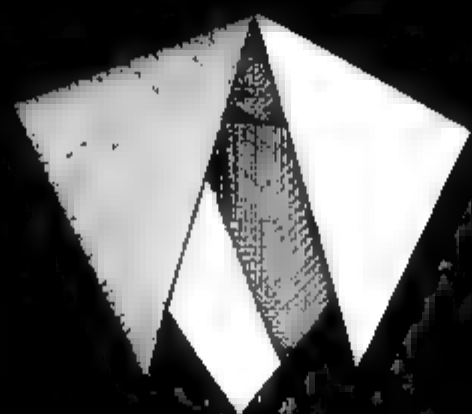
"SHE'S
LIKE A
SWAN IN
A LOT OF
WAYS.

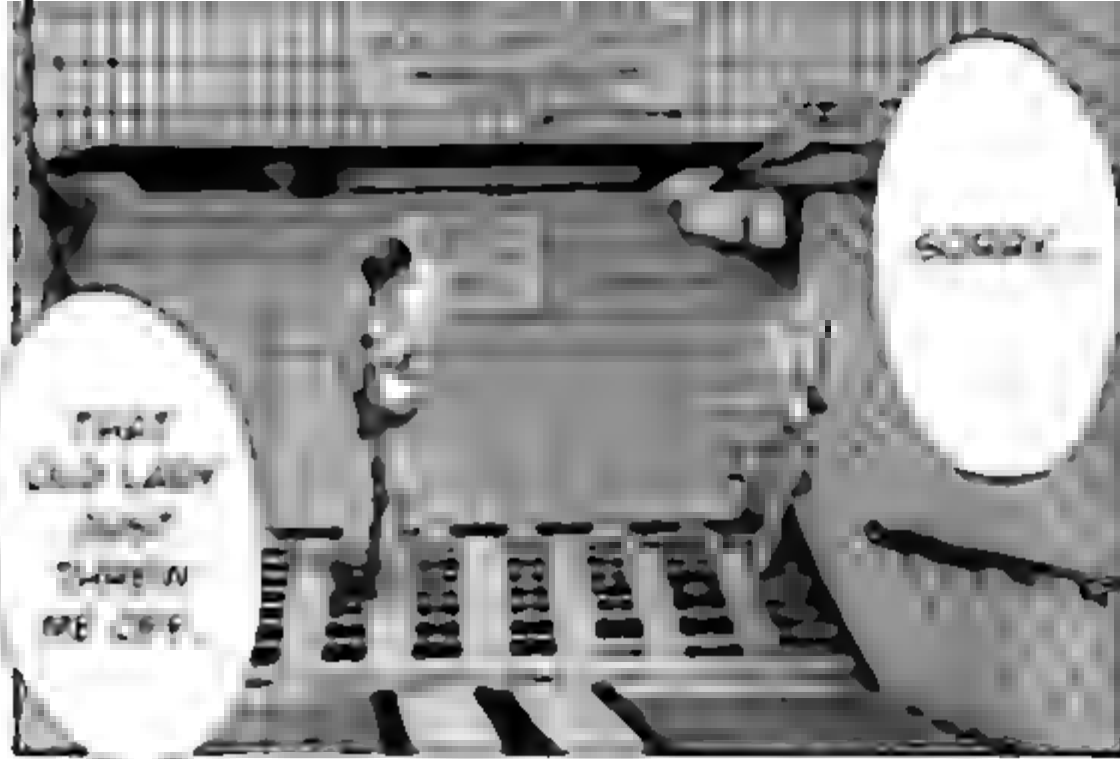


...NO
ONE EVER
STOPS TO
HELP.

USUALLY
WHEN
SOMEONE'S
BEING
PATHETIC
LIKE
YOU...







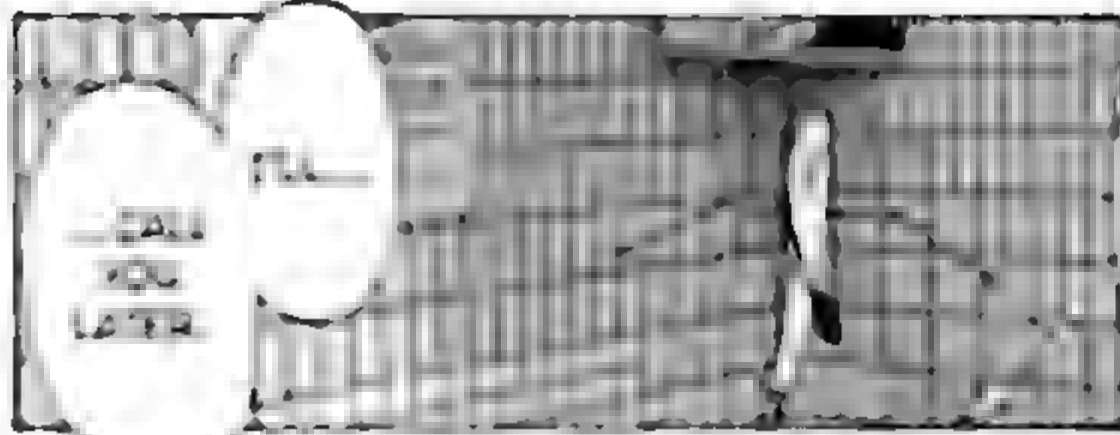
SORRY

THAT
CRASH LADY
JUST
THREW IN
ME OFF.



CRYING

I HATE
CRYING IN
FRONT OF
PEOPLE.



TELL

CALL
YOU
LATER.



Nanjo!



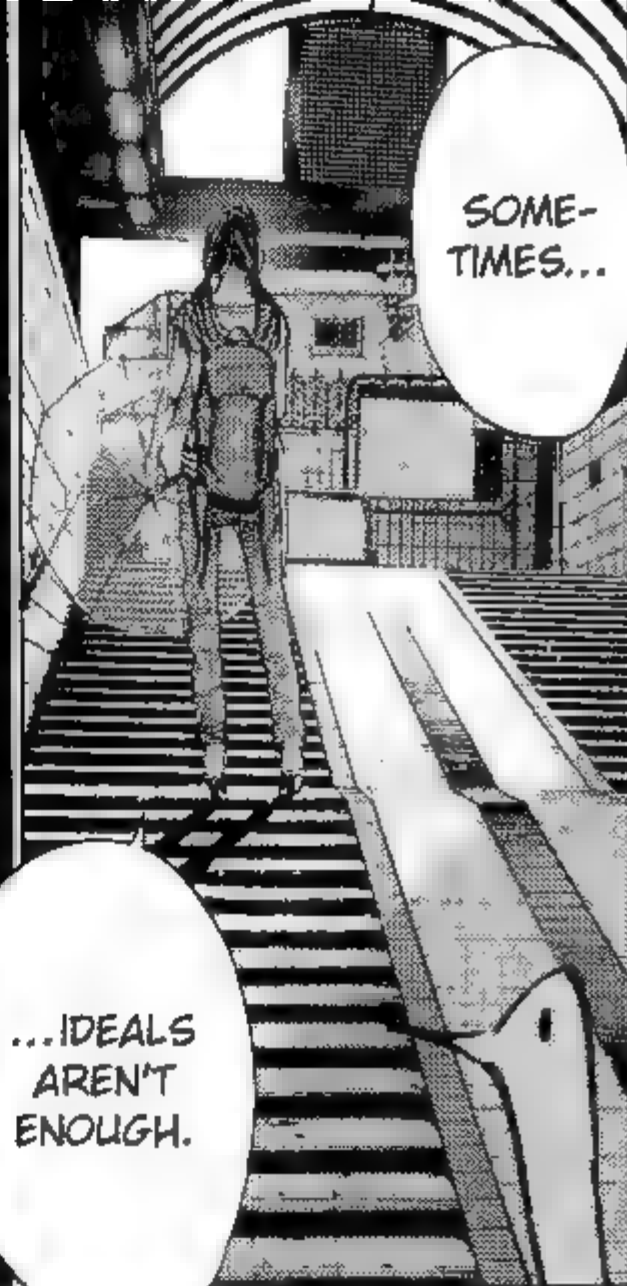
"What
about the
manga?"



A
GUY WHO
KNOWS
NOTHING
ABOUT
MANGA?

WILL YOU
WRITE THE
STORY?

"Isn't it
cheating
to be
inconsistent
like that?"



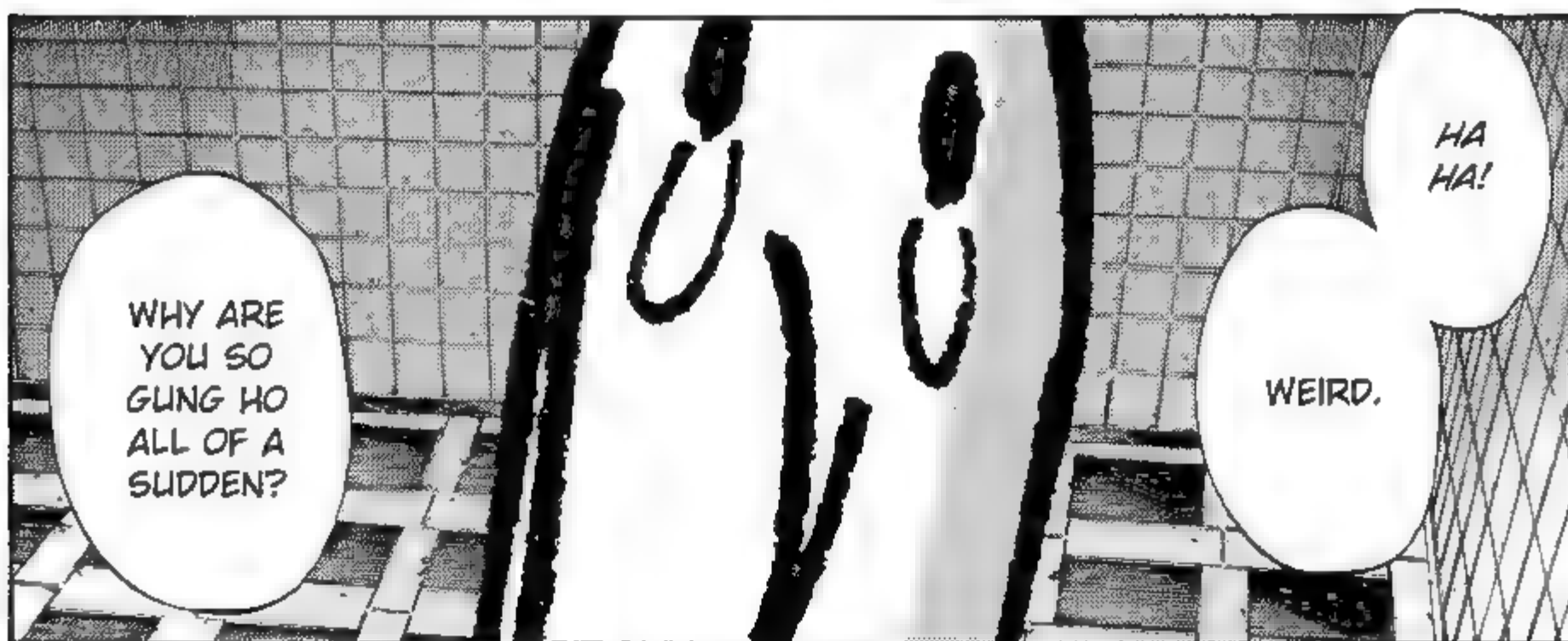
SOME-
TIMES...

...IDEALS
AREN'T
ENOUGH.

"I'll
rewrite it
until you
approve."

"Of
course
I will."

"Will
I...?"

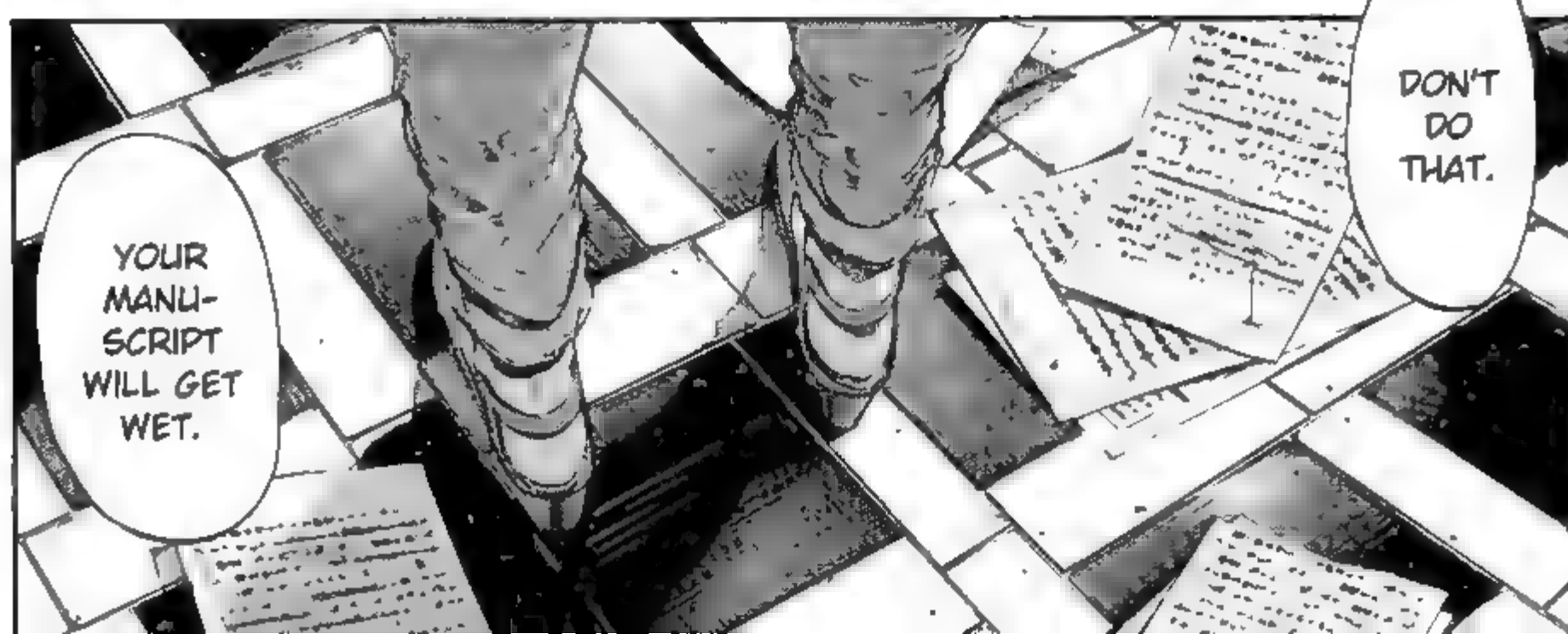
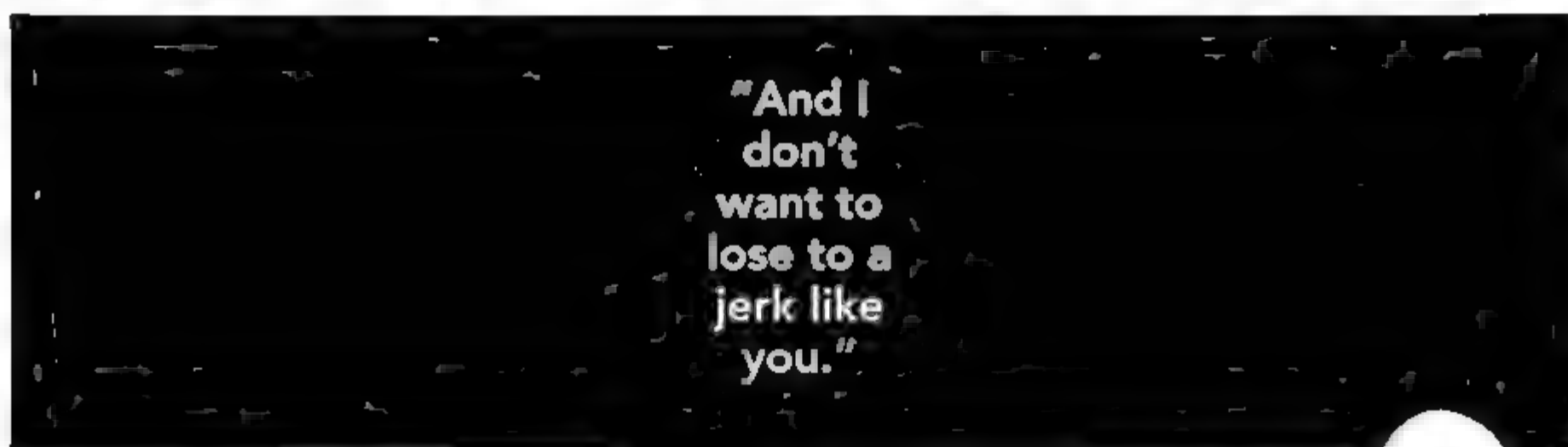


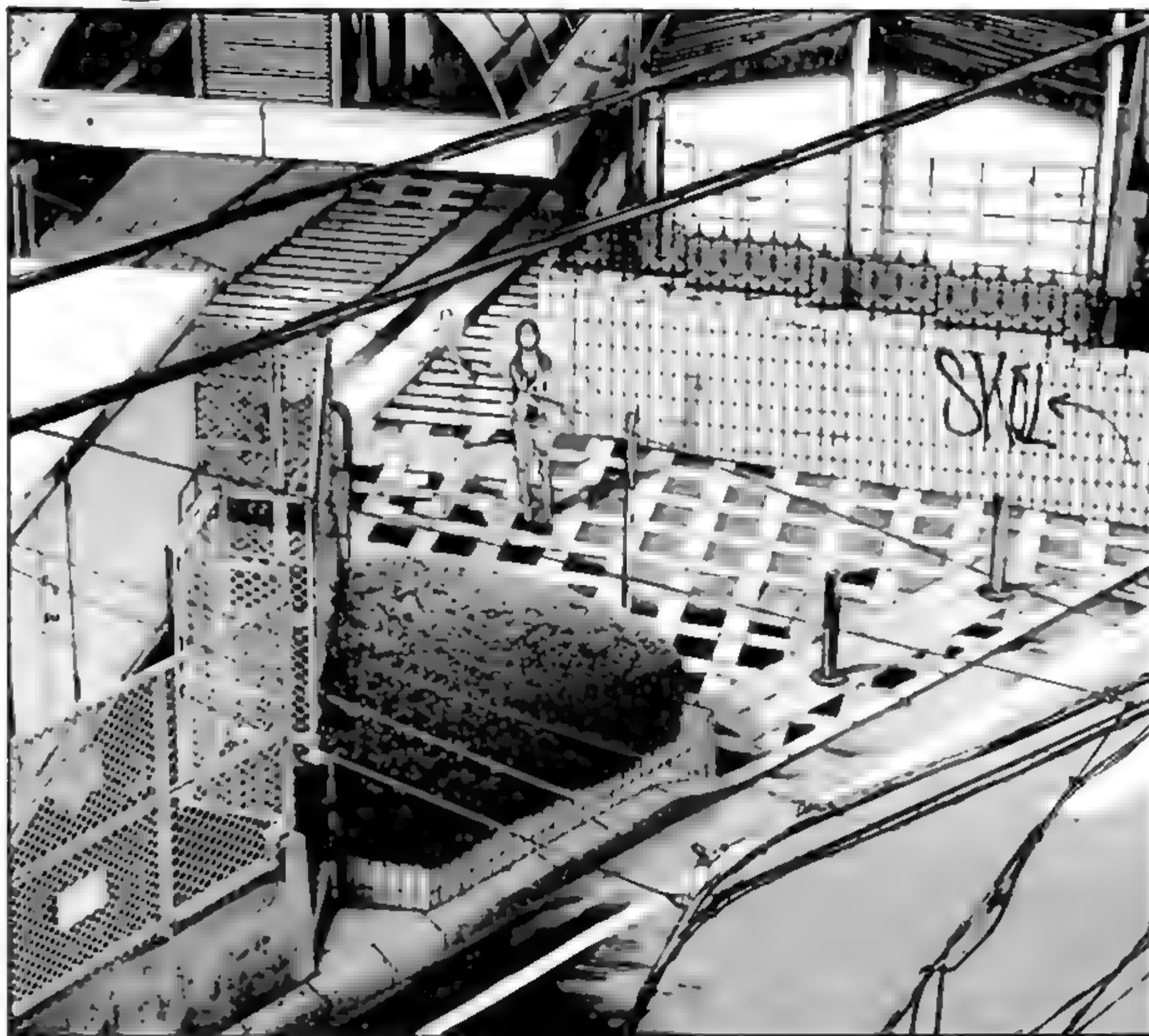
WHY ARE
YOU SO
GUNG HO
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?

HA
HA!

WEIRD.

"I have
experienced
the pleasure
of praise."











WHEN I
WAS A KID,
I DREW A
PICTURE OF
A RAINBOW
AND WON AN
AWARD AT
SCHOOL.



MY MOM
WAS SUPER
PROUD OF
ME.

THE ONLY
THING I
WAS GOOD
AT WHEN I
WAS A KID
WAS ART...

...AND
MAKING MY
MOM HAPPY
WAS MY ONLY
REASON FOR
LIVING.

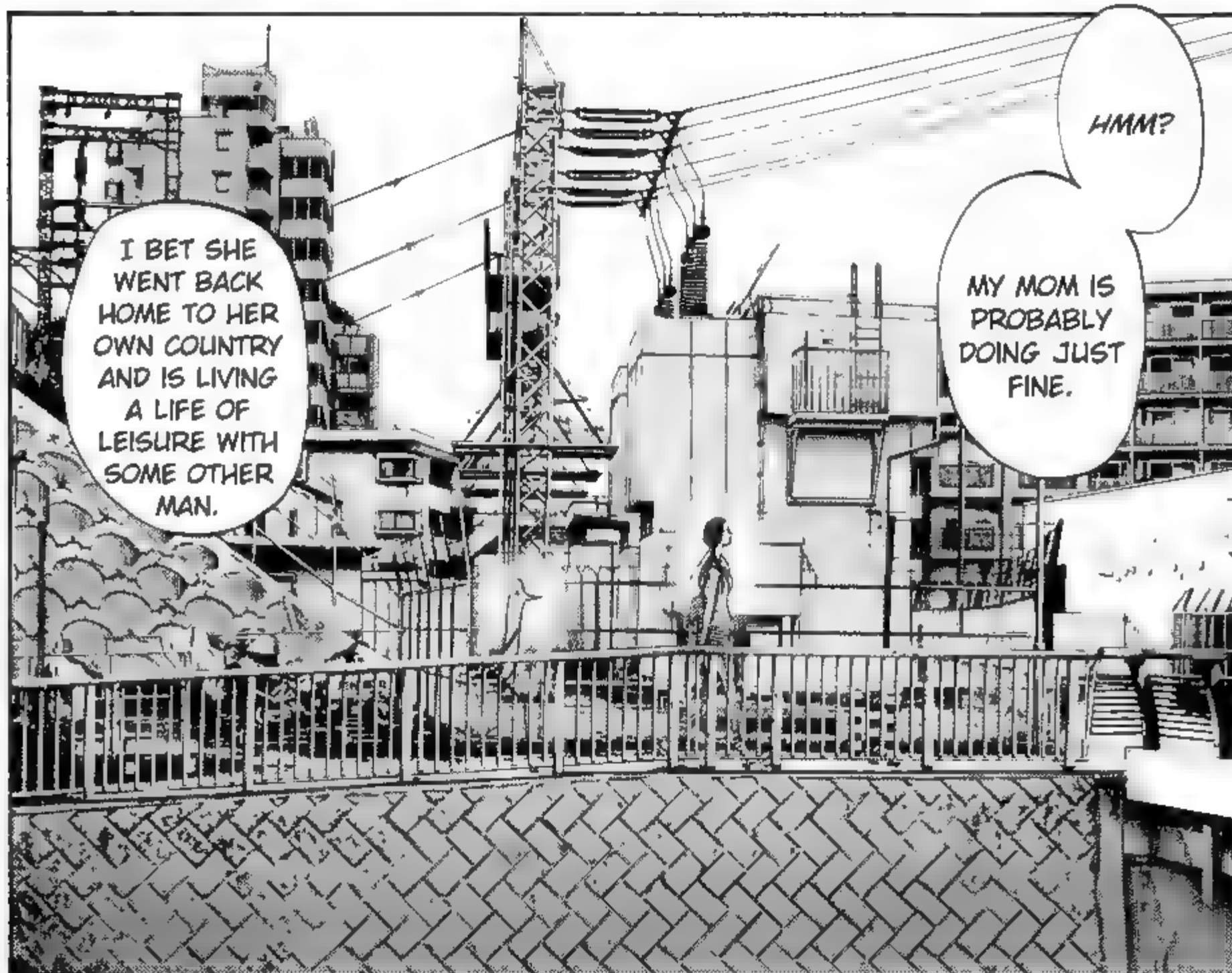


YOU KNOW,
MY MOM
WAS AN
IMMIGRANT
...

...SO MAYBE
SHE WAS
USING THEM
TO STUDY
JAPANESE.



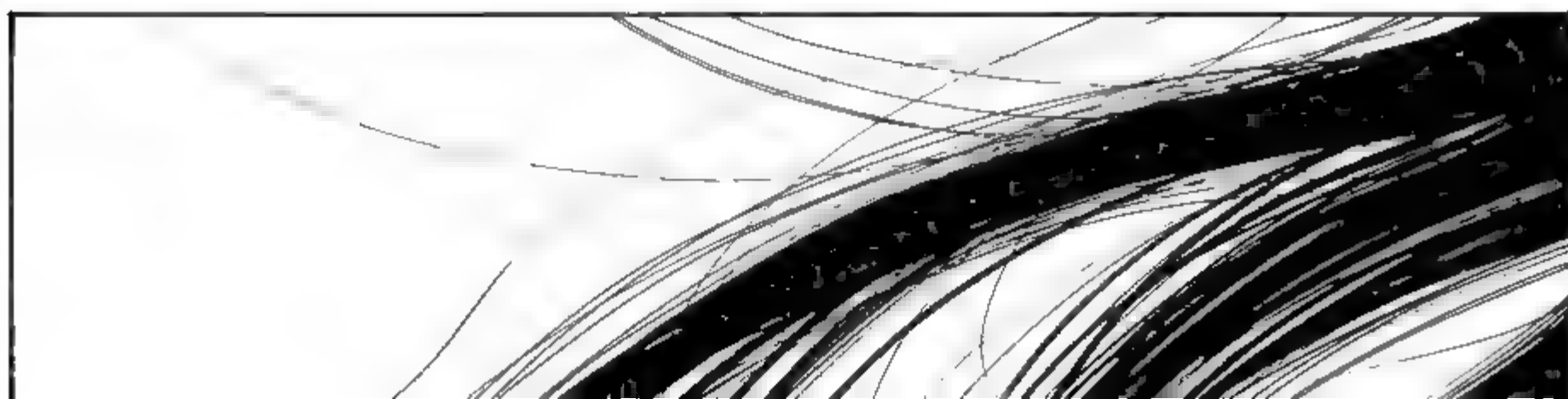
SHE WAS
A CHEAP-
SKATE, BUT
SHE'D BUY
ME LOTS
OF MANGA,
SO I LOVED
HER.



I BET SHE
WENT BACK
HOME TO HER
OWN COUNTRY
AND IS LIVING
A LIFE OF
LEISURE WITH
SOME OTHER
MAN.

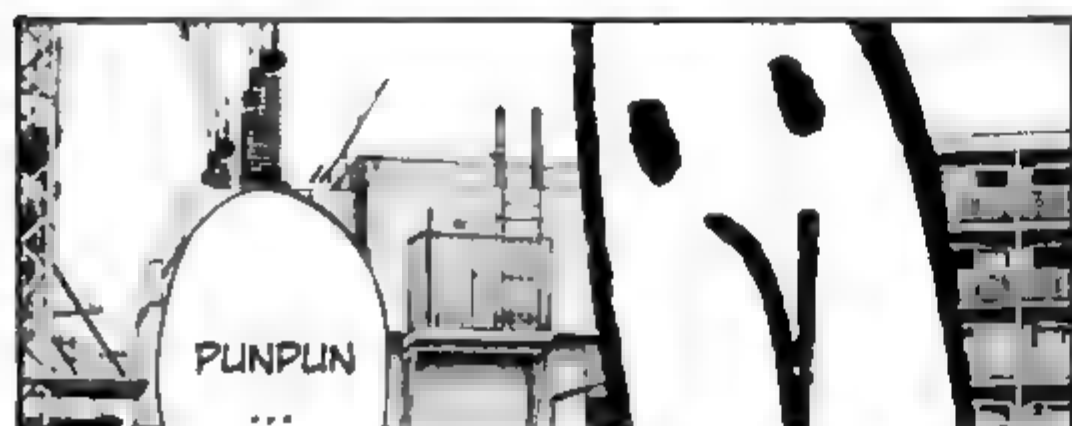
HMM?

MY MOM IS
PROBABLY
DOING JUST
FINE.





YEAH.



PUNPUN

...



...YOU CAN
CALL ME
SACHI FROM
NOW ON.



I
THINK I
FINALLY
FIGURED
OUT...

...WHAT
I WAS
MISSING.



...but he decided
that for now, he
would just give
himself over to
the approach of
summer.

Punpun couldn't
deny that he was
feeling restless from
being tossed about
by the sudden high-
pressure system...



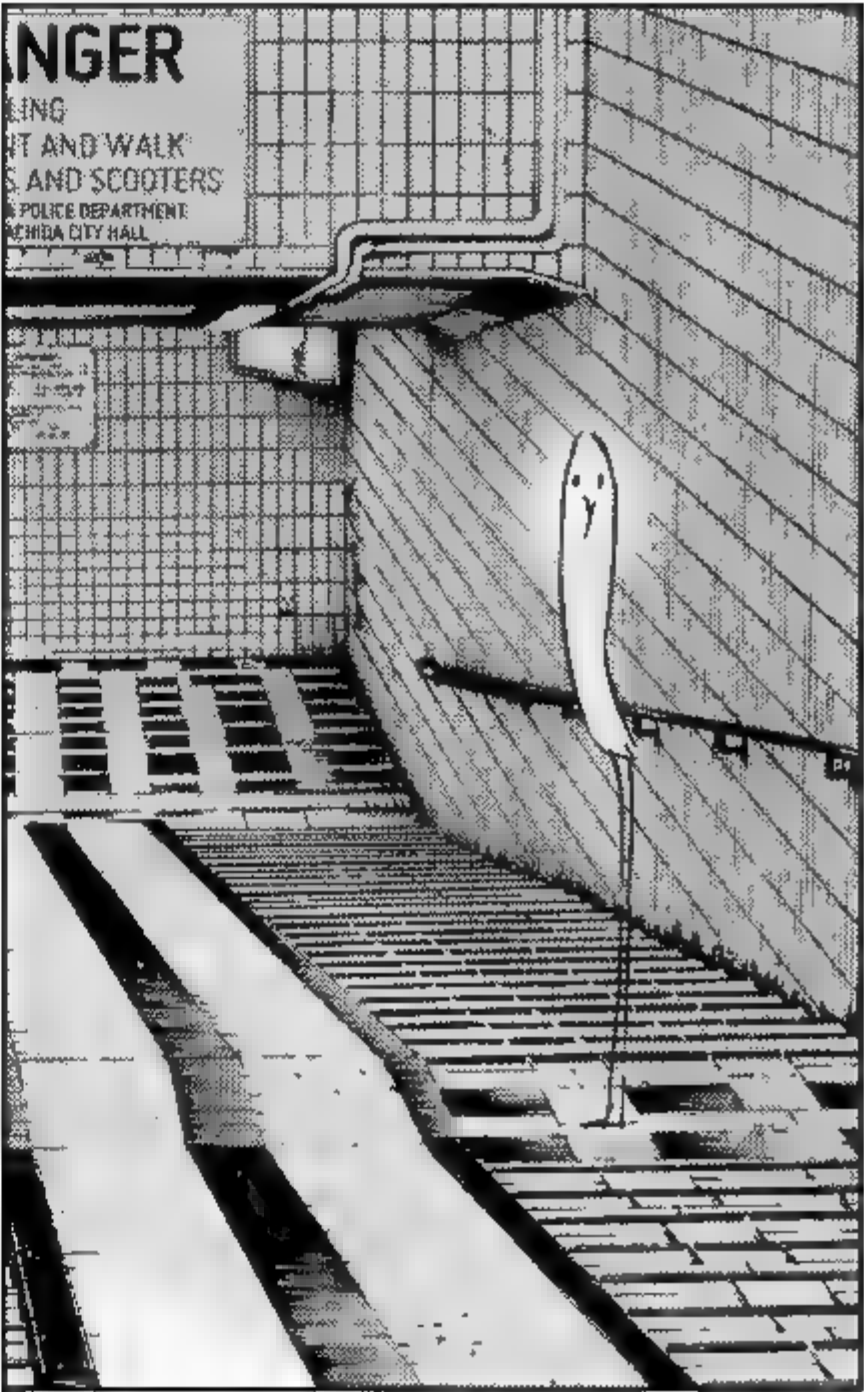
...but he
couldn't
recall
who that
somebody
was.

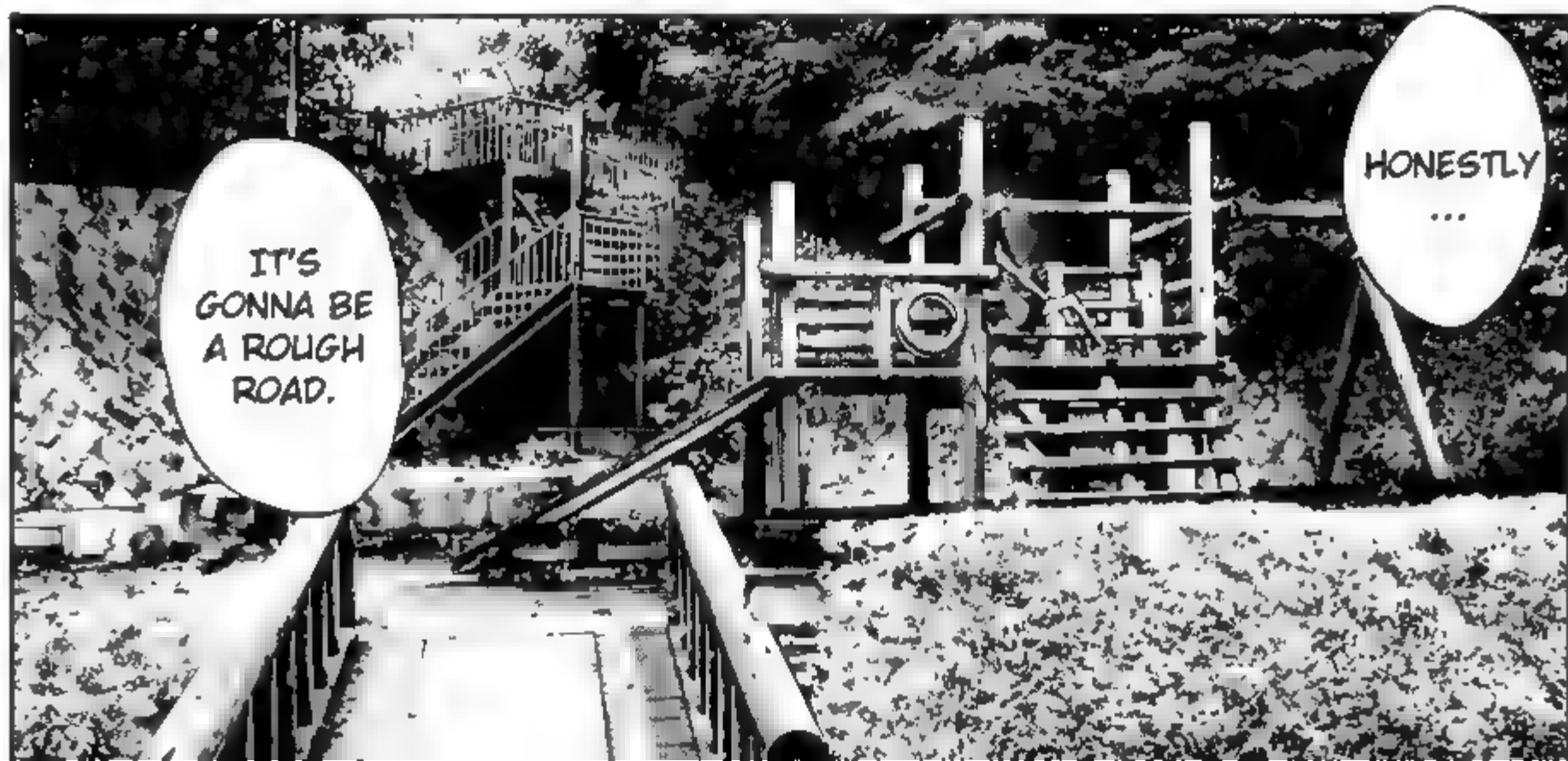
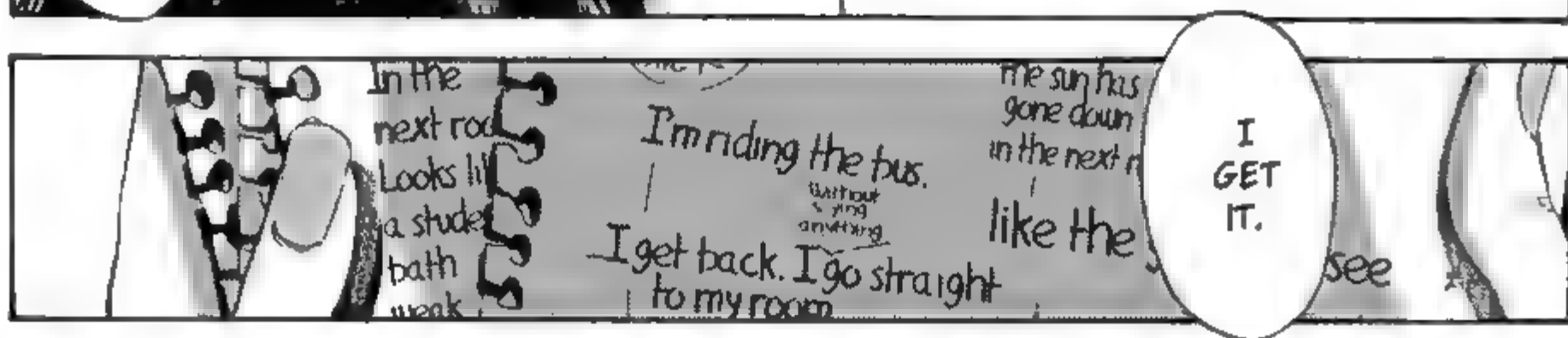
...and it
reminded
him of
someone
else's
hand...

...was much
larger and
knobbier
than he had
expected...

Sachi's
hand...







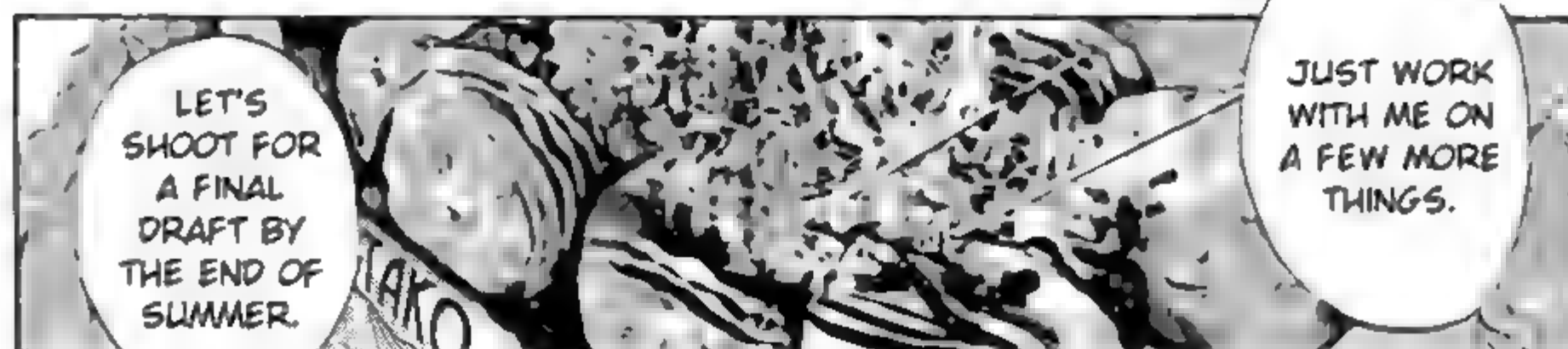


BUT...

YOU'RE TRYING REALLY HARD.

YOU CAME UP WITH ALL THIS IN JUST A COUPLE OF WEEKS.

...I HAVE TO HAND IT TO YOU, PUNPUN.



LET'S SHOOT FOR A FINAL DRAFT BY THE END OF SUMMER.

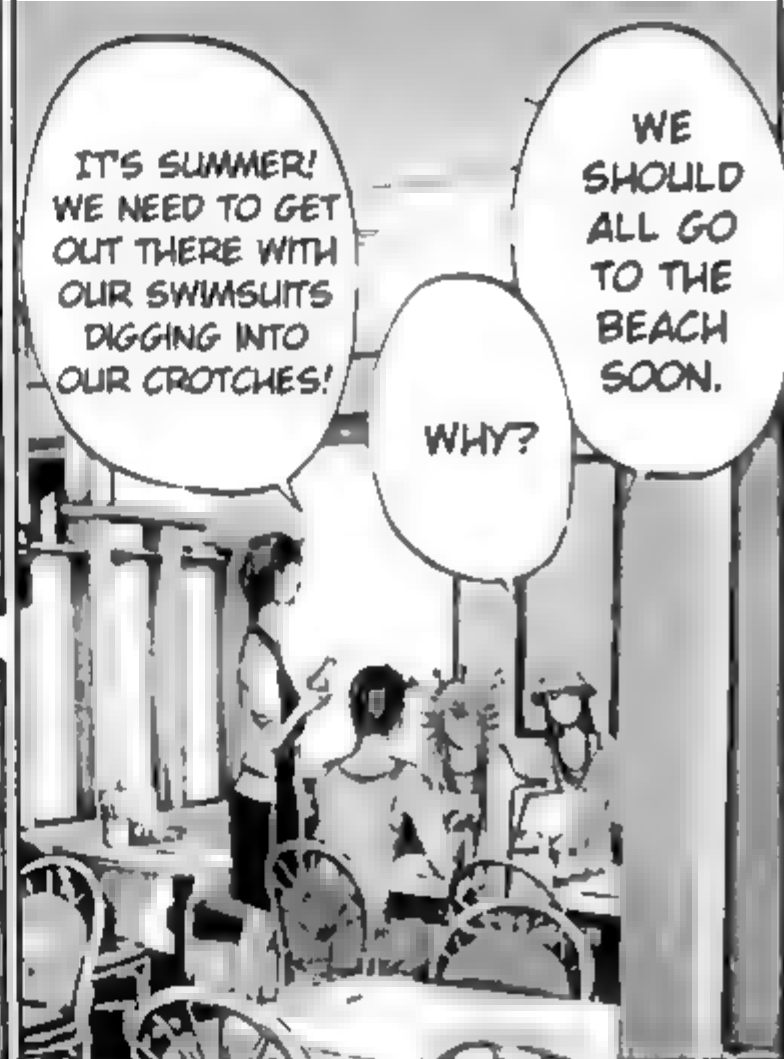
JUST WORK WITH ME ON A FEW MORE THINGS.





AHH.







I
WANT TO
WRITE...

...IT'S
NOT
QUITE
RIGHT.

YOU
KNOW...



IT'S
NOT FOR
ESCAPING
REALITY...

...IT'S FOR
FIGHTING
REALITY.

...
SOMETHING
THAT DOESN'T
JUST MOVE
YOU OR
BRING YOU
TO TEARS
FOR A FEW
SECONDS.

I WANT
IT TO BE
SOMETHING
THAT AFFECTS
YOUR LIFE
IN SOME
LASTING
WAY.



WHAT AM
I TRYING
TO SAY?

...UHM,
ER.

AND
...

AAARGH!



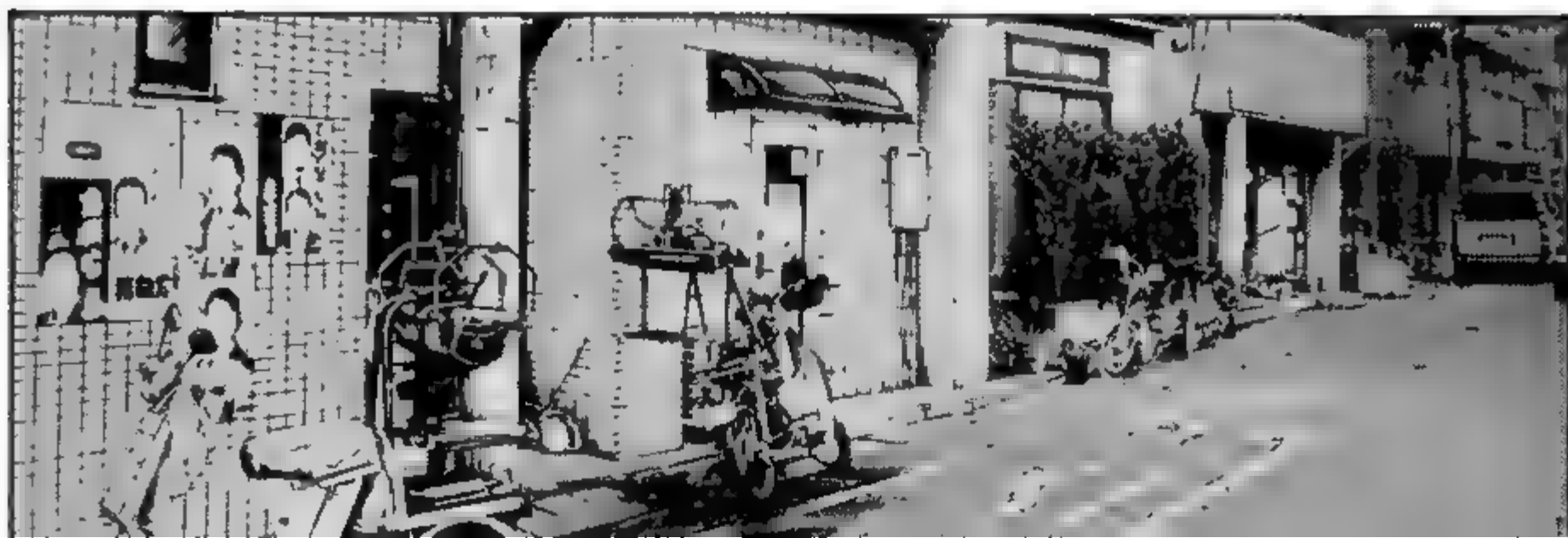
...IT'S
GOOD THAT
YOU'RE
NOT VERY
BRIGHT.

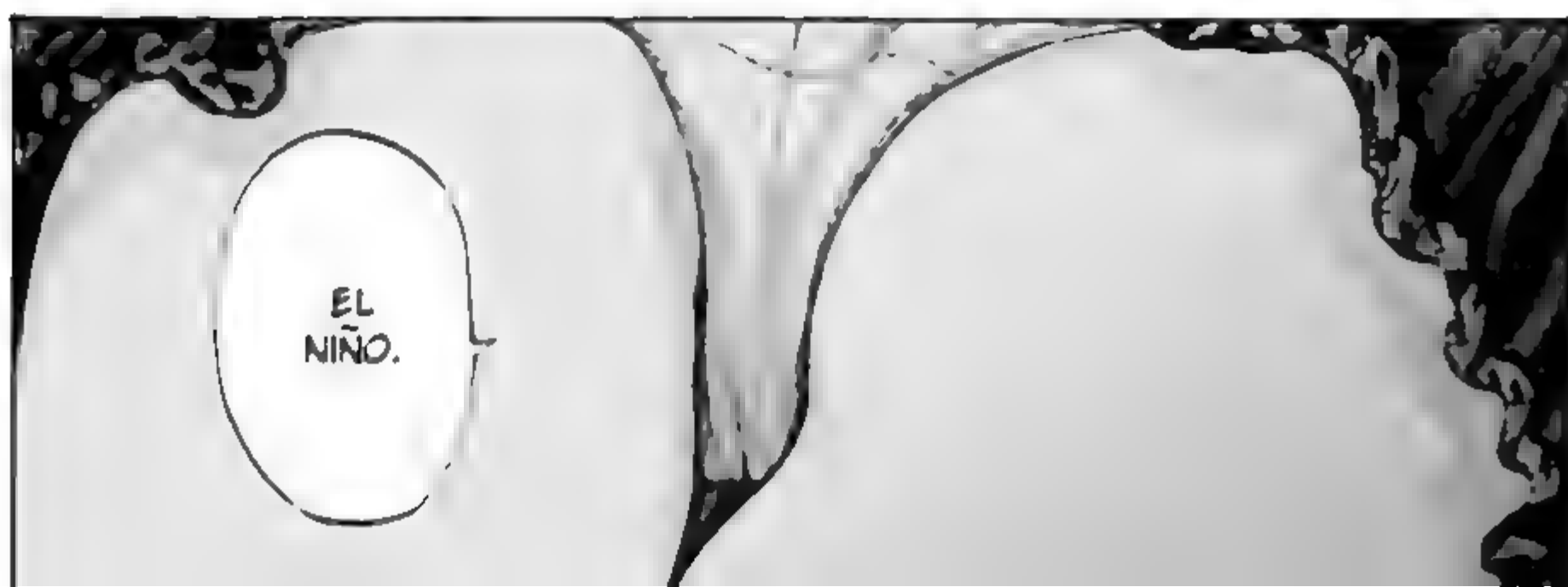
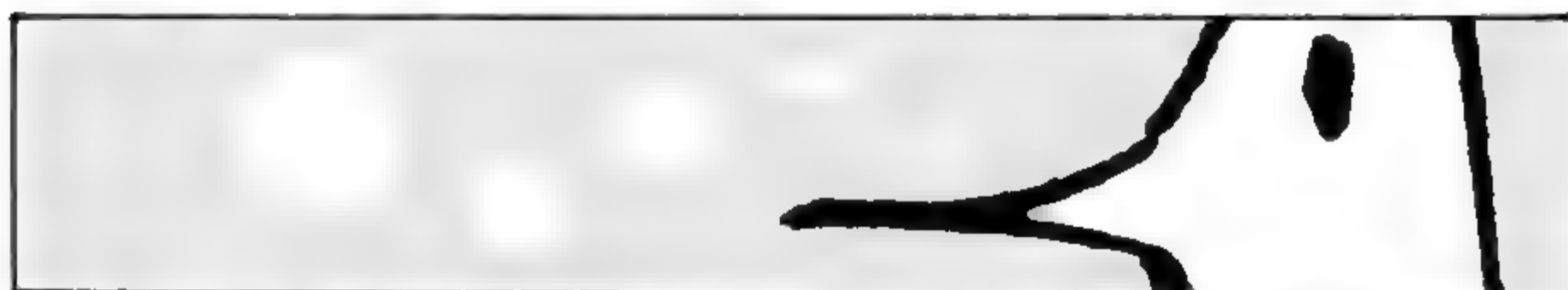
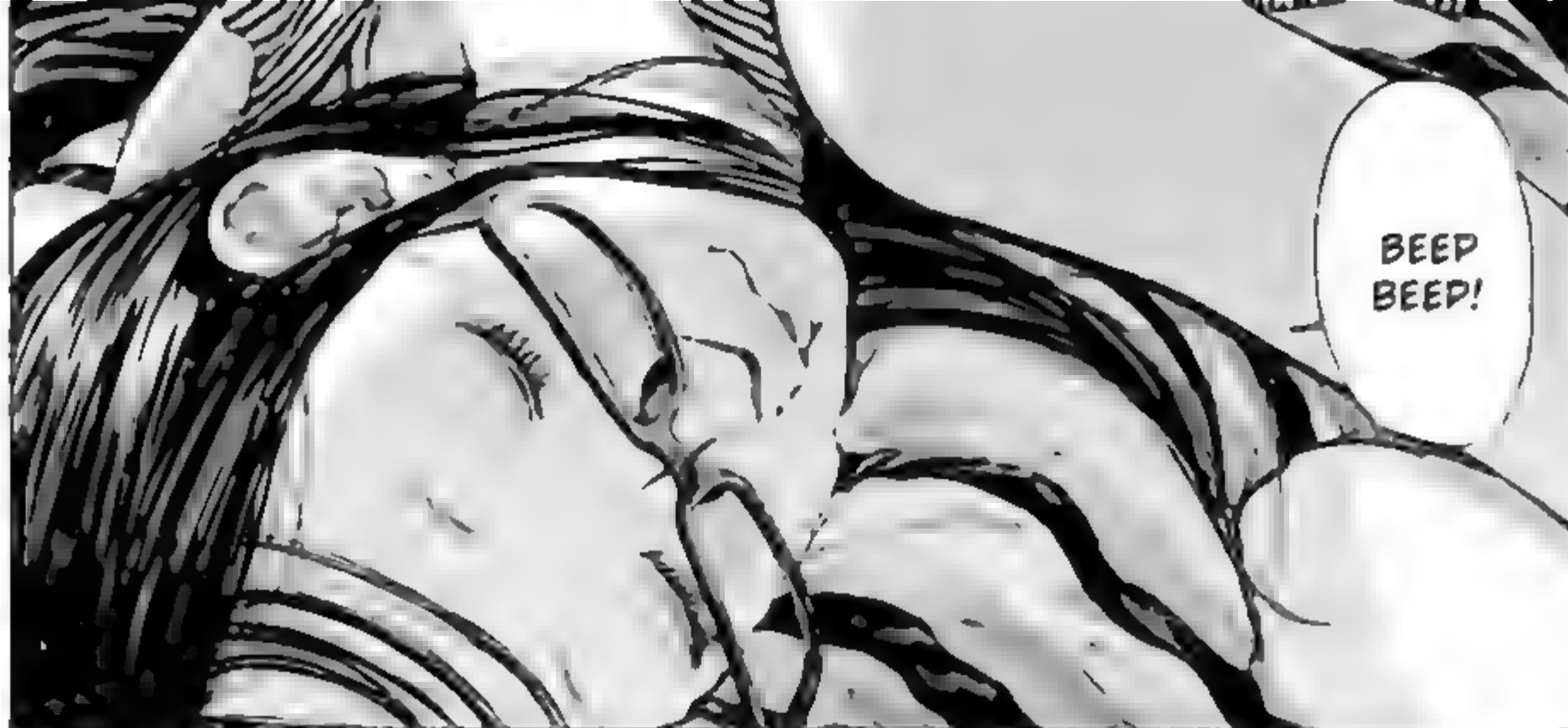
YOU
KNOW,
PUNPUN
...



THINK
YOUR OWN
THOUGHTS!

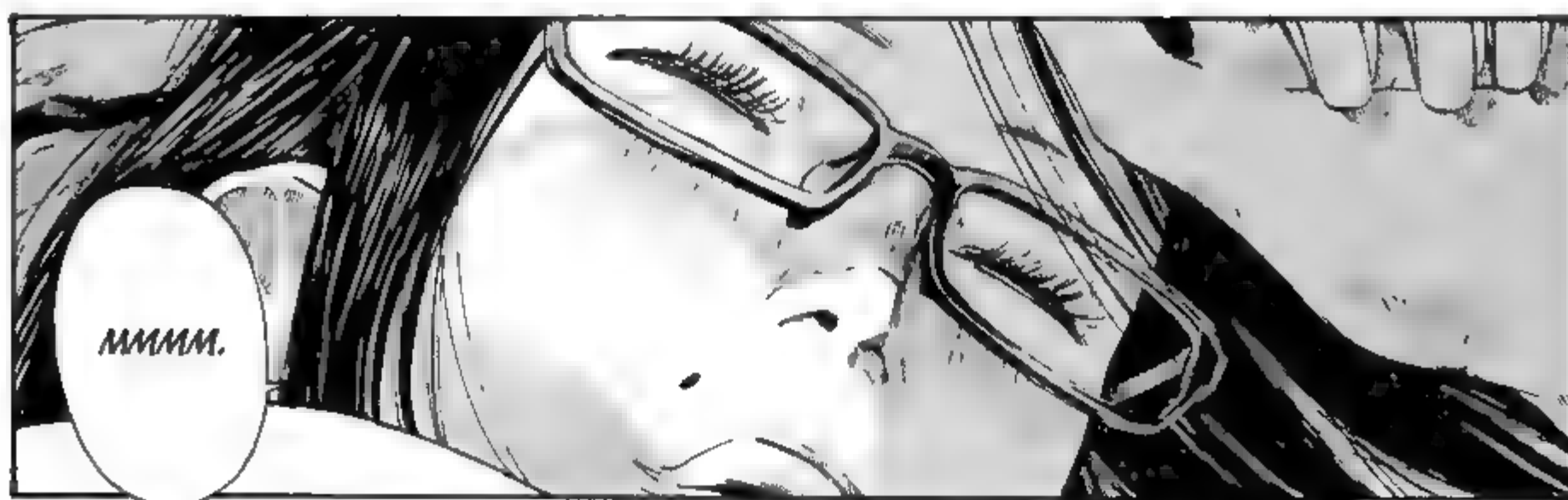
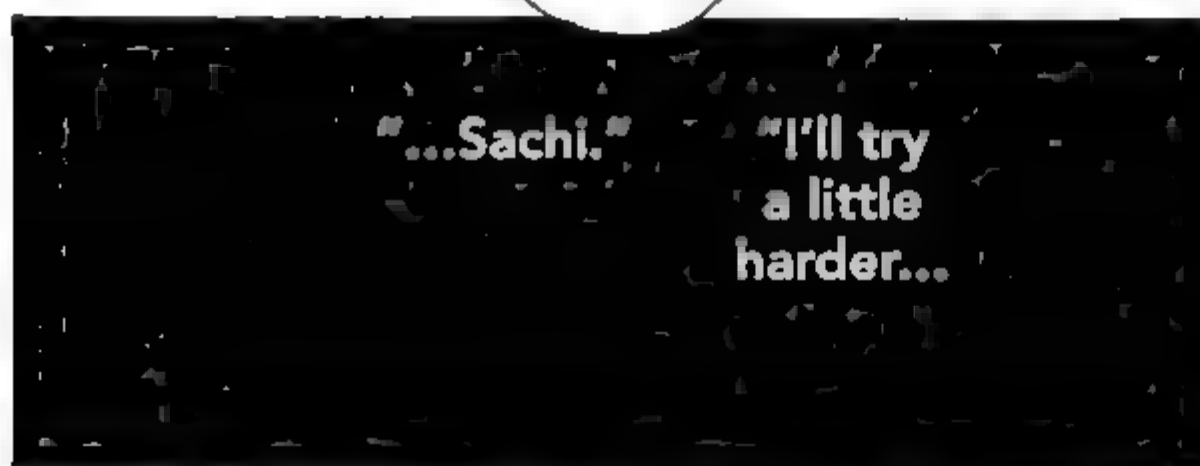
DON'T
GET TOO
CAUGHT
UP IN THE
WORLD.







"You
shouldn't
drink so
much."



...Punpun
was a bit let
down.

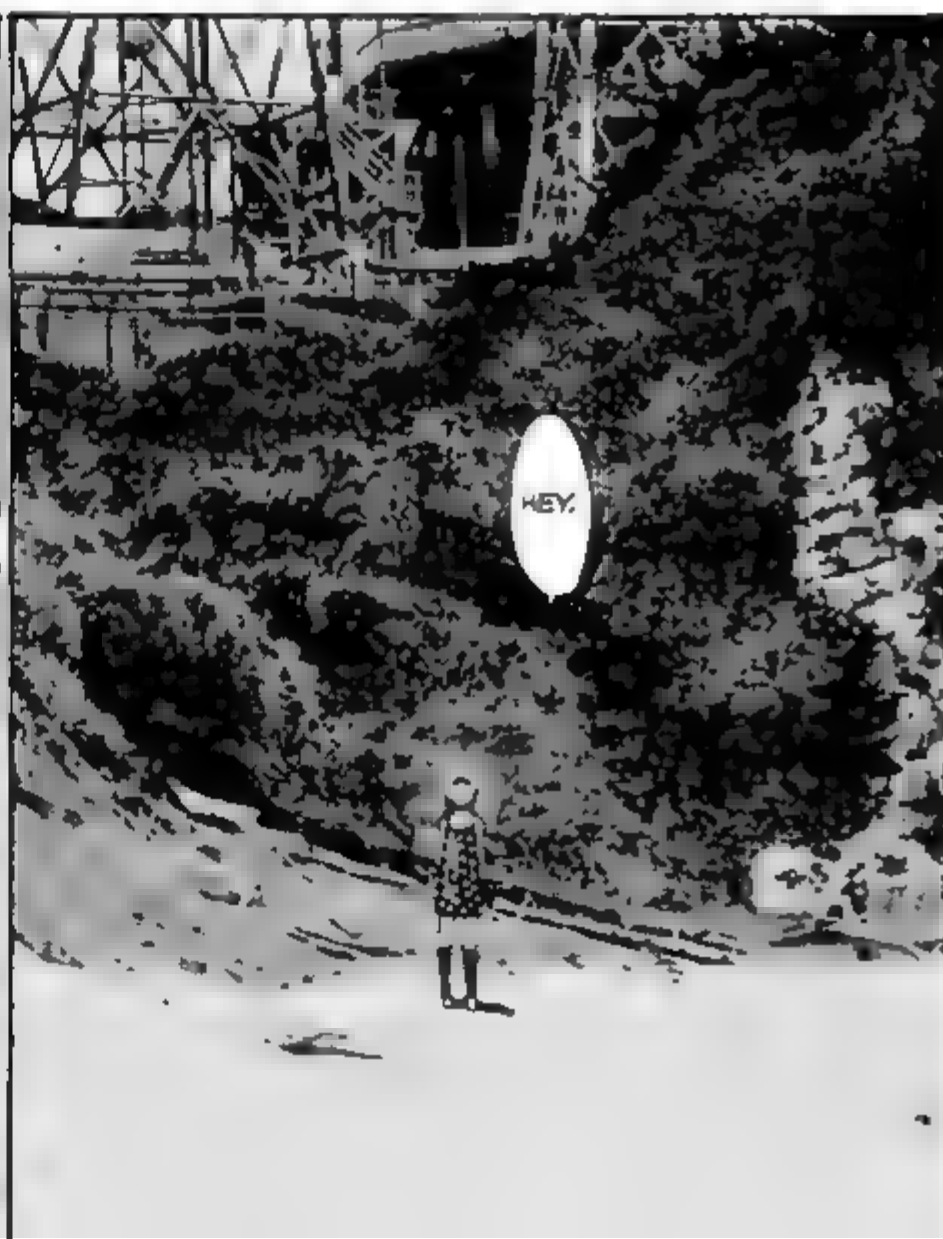
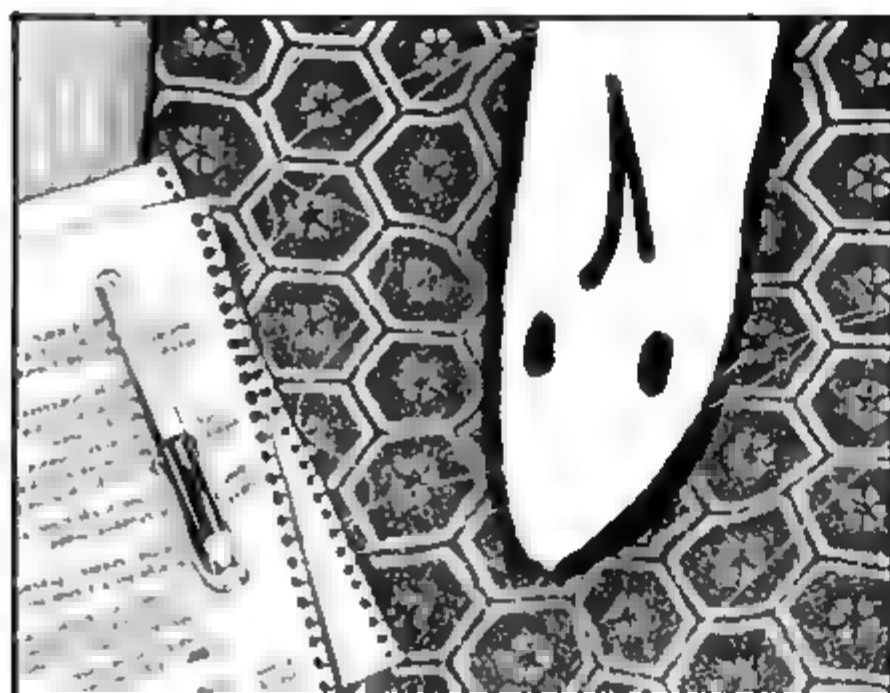
Actually...



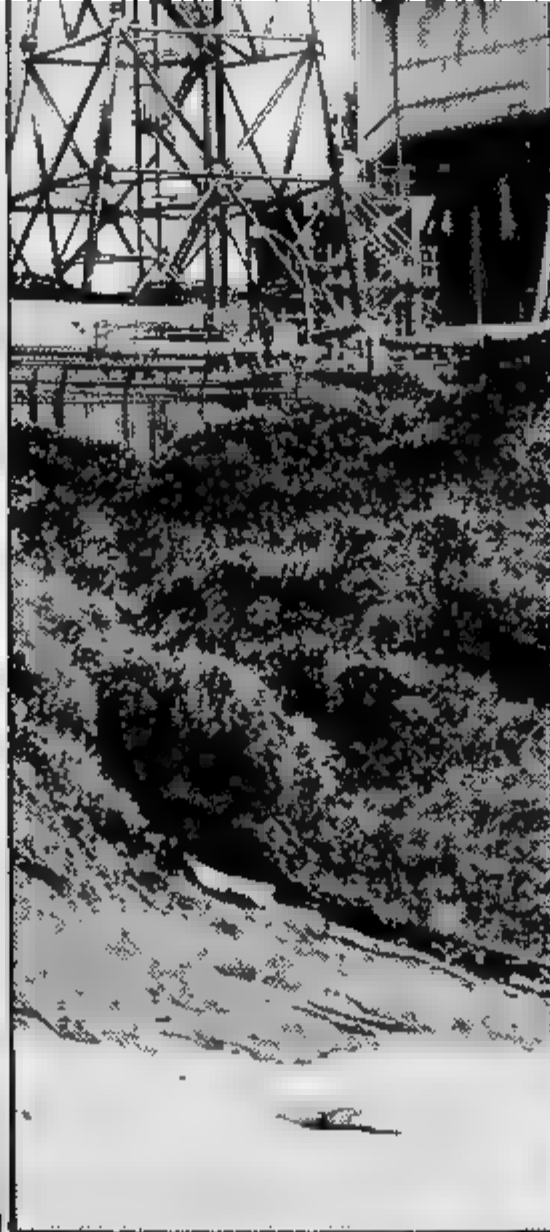
...he
thought.

"I can
actually
do
things..."

"Well,
what
do you
know?"



Of course,
one wrong
move and
he was sure
he'd fall back
down that
deep, dark
hole...

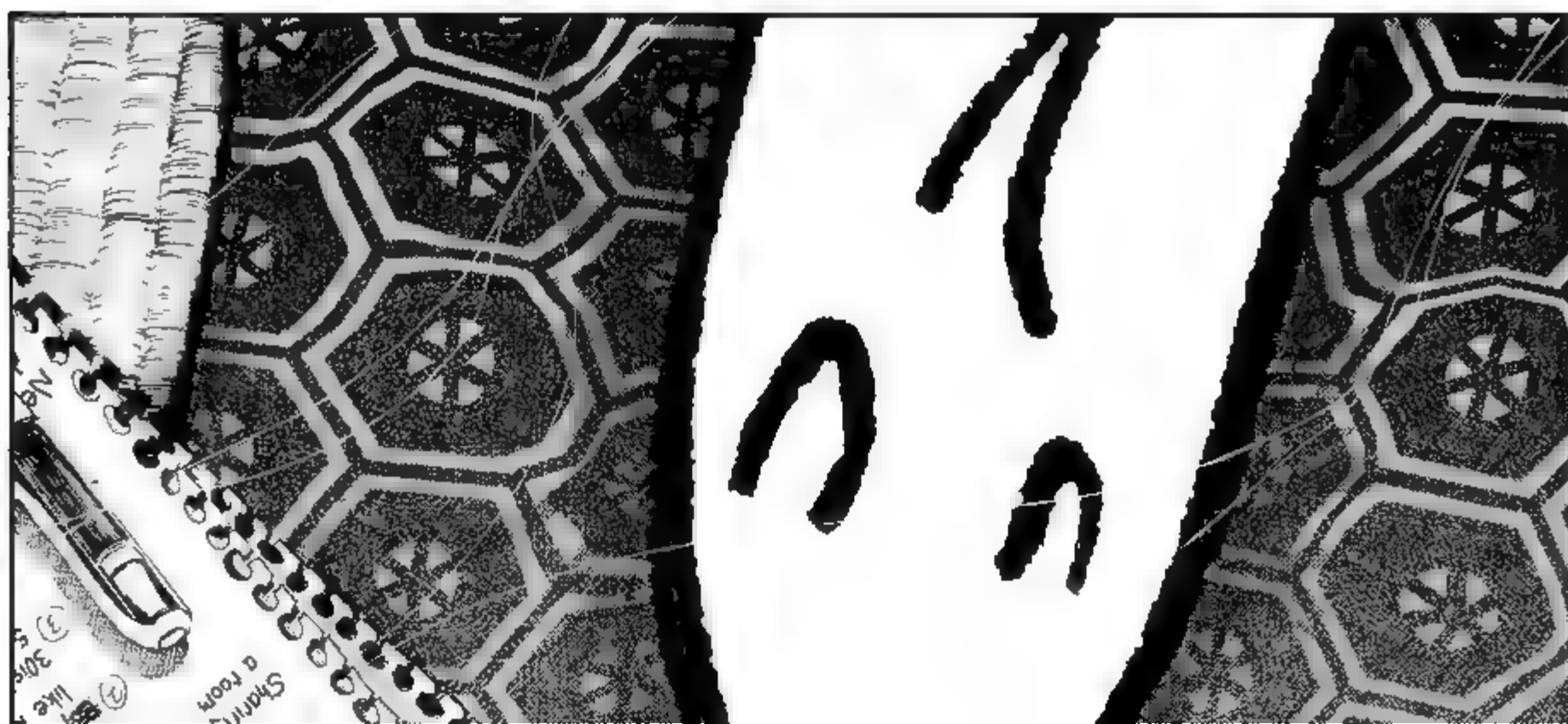


Punpun couldn't
get rid of the
regret he felt for
being unable to
change on his
own, without
getting caught
up in someone
else.

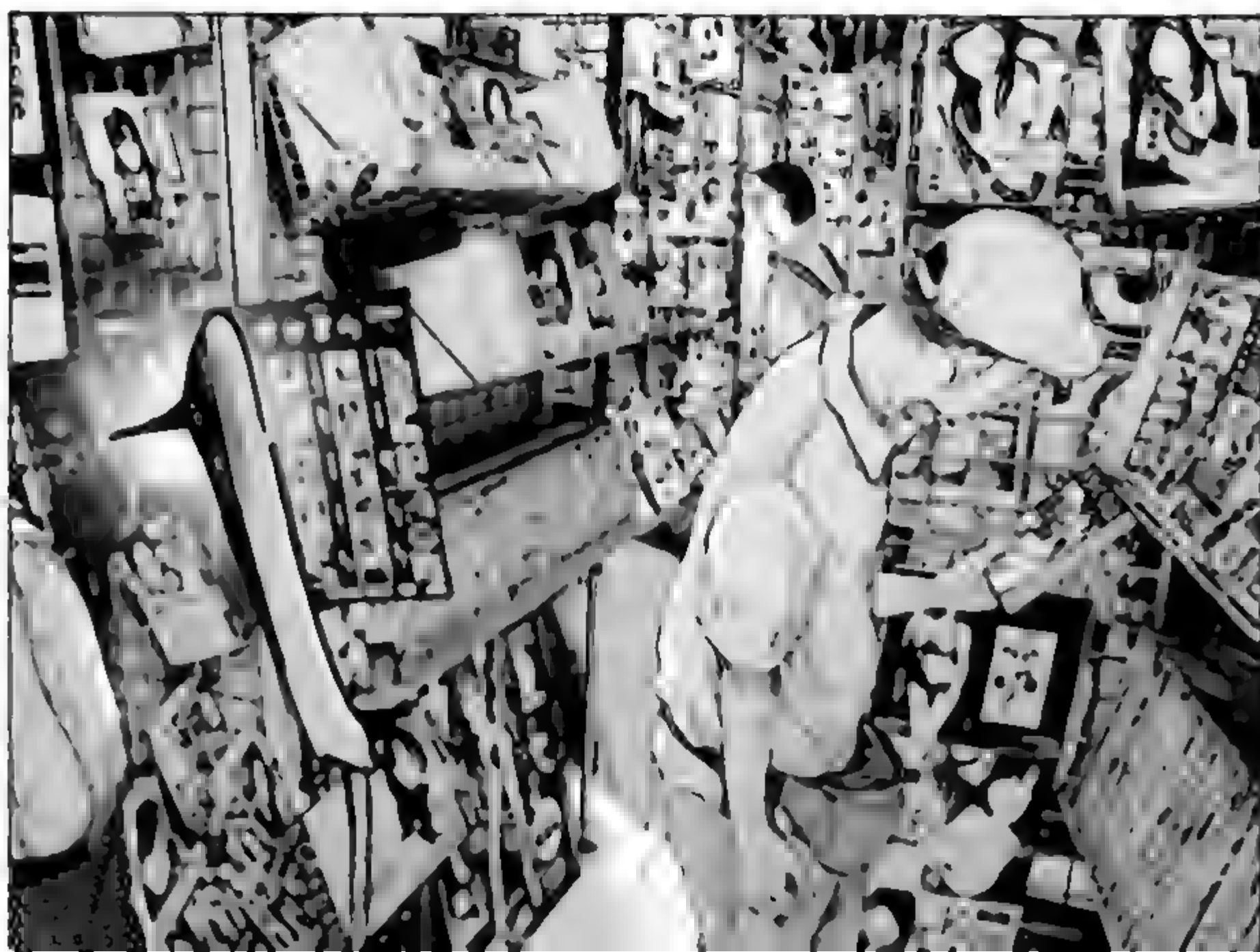


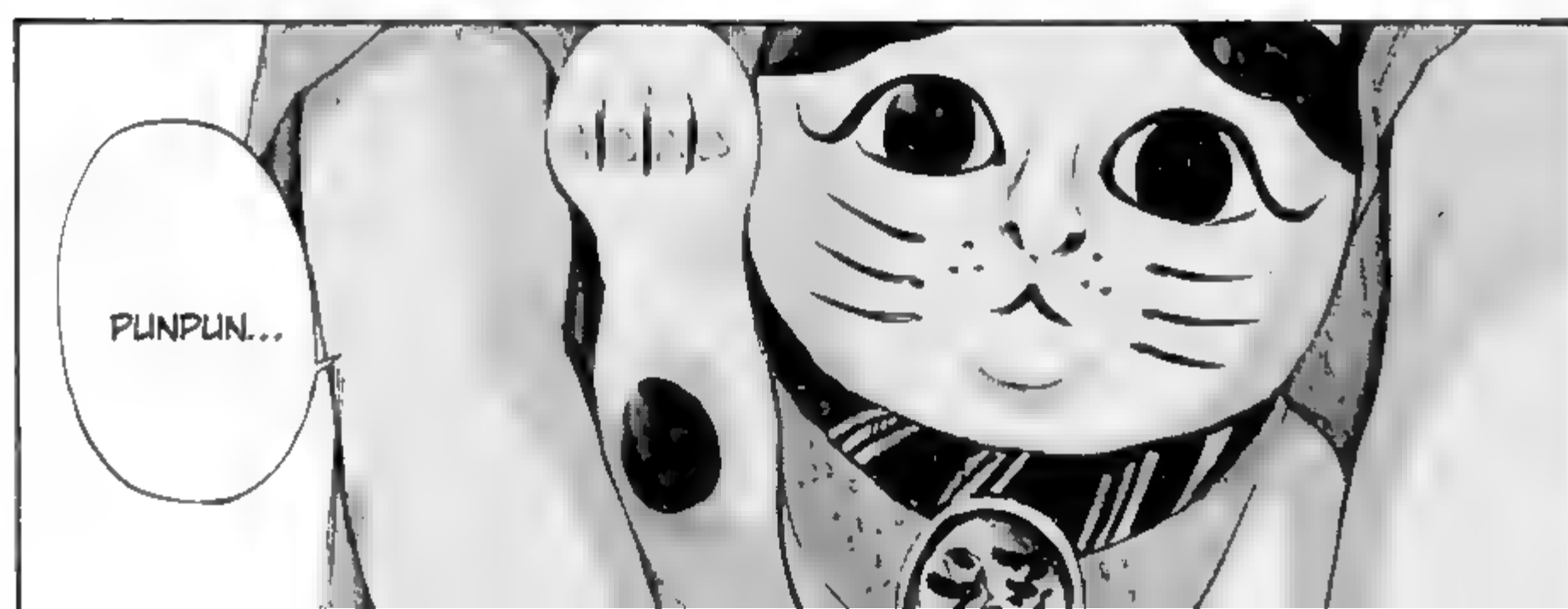
For
now, that
simple
word...

"Later."



...was a magic invocation that made Punpun feel like staying alive until the next time they met was doable.







WE DO
NEED OUR
YOUNG
PEOPLE.

THINGS
ARE SO
CONVE-
NIENT
NOW.

IT
REALLY
IS THE
AGE OF
COMPUTERS,
ISN'T IT?



THEN YOU
CAN COME
WORK FOR
US.

...SO WHY
DON'T YOU
GET YOUR
REAL ESTATE
LICENSE?

YOU
KNOW,
PUNPLIN,
YOU CATCH
ON REALLY
QUICKLY...



HUH?

CAN'T
HEAR A
THING.

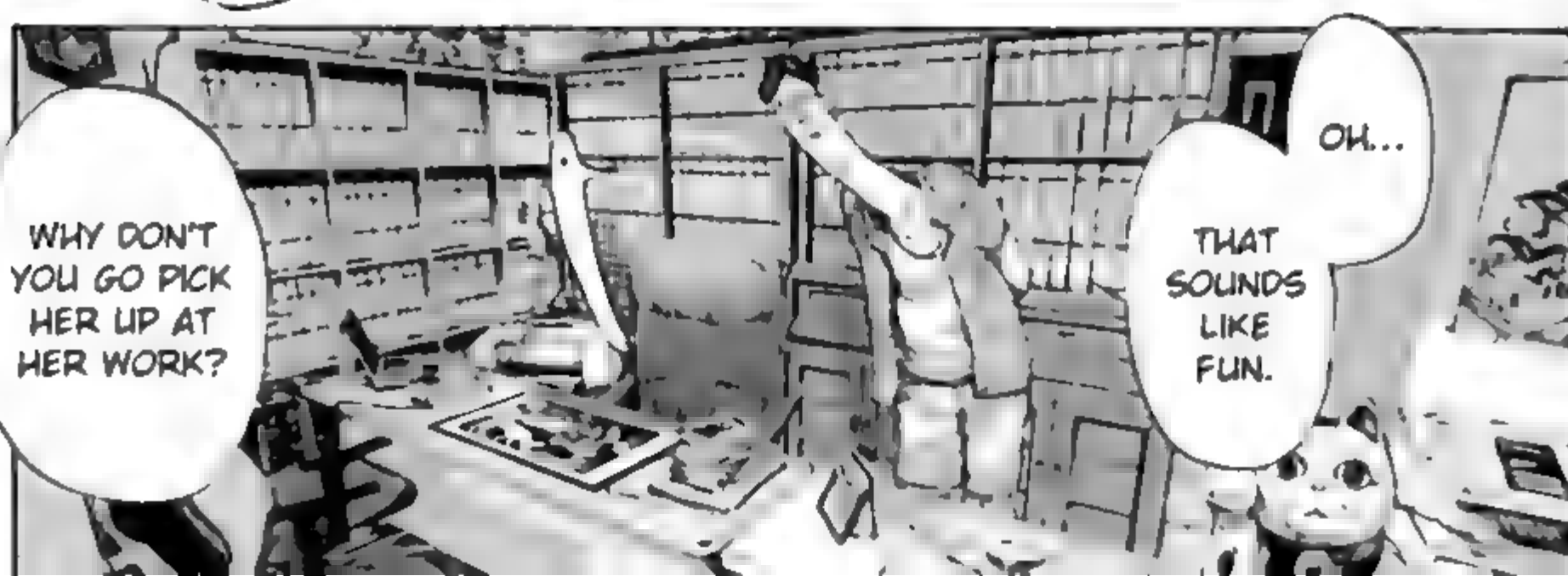


WHAT DO
YOU THINK,
MISUZU?
ISN'T THAT
A GOOD
IDEA?



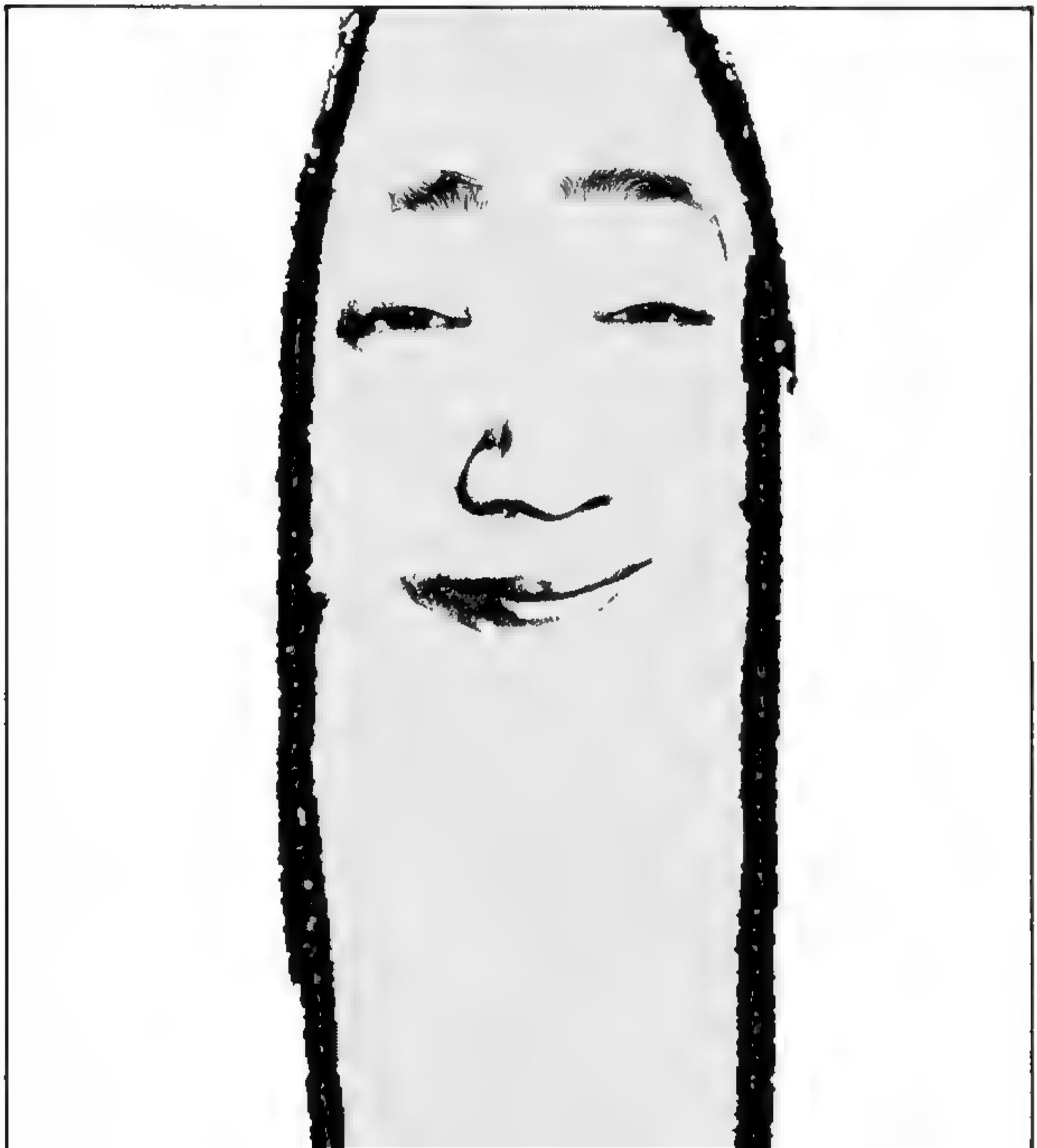
OH YEAH,
WOULD
YOU MIND
THROWING
THAT
POSTER
AWAY?

IT
ENDS
TODAY.











...who had
decided
to live all
alone.

I've
decided
to
live
alone.

COMING

I'VE
BEEN

waiting
for
my
guard
to
come.

People
don't
want
to
live
this
way.
That's
why...

Let
your
guard
down.

I'm
going
to
live
all
alone.



...and this
was what
happened.

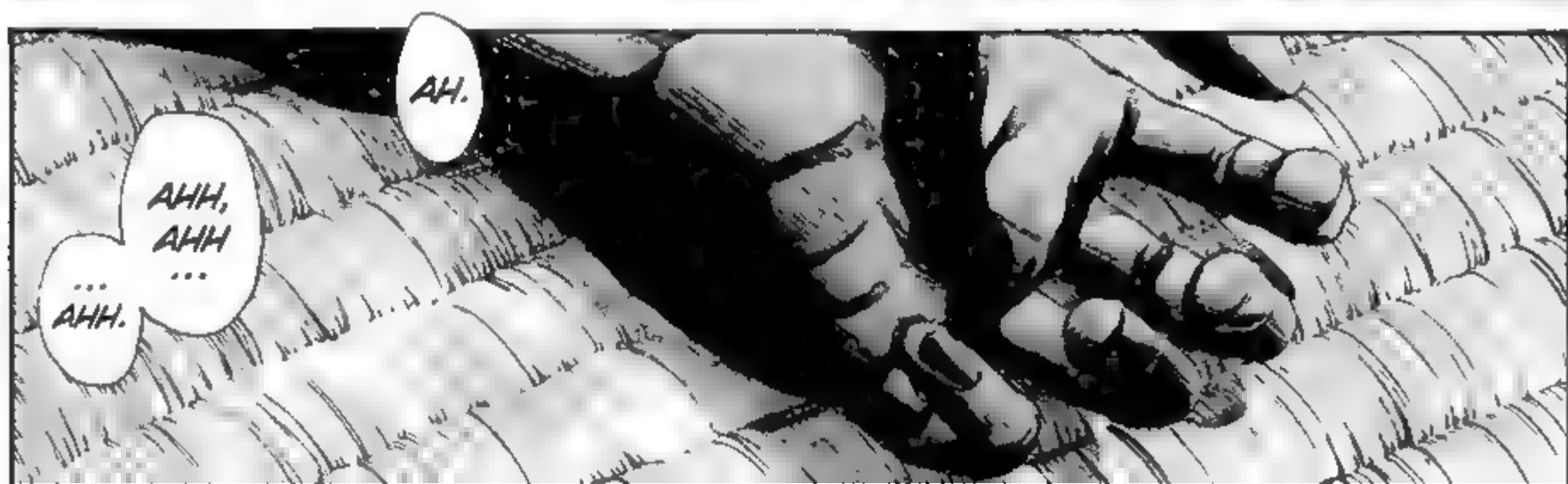
Let
your guard
down for a
second...

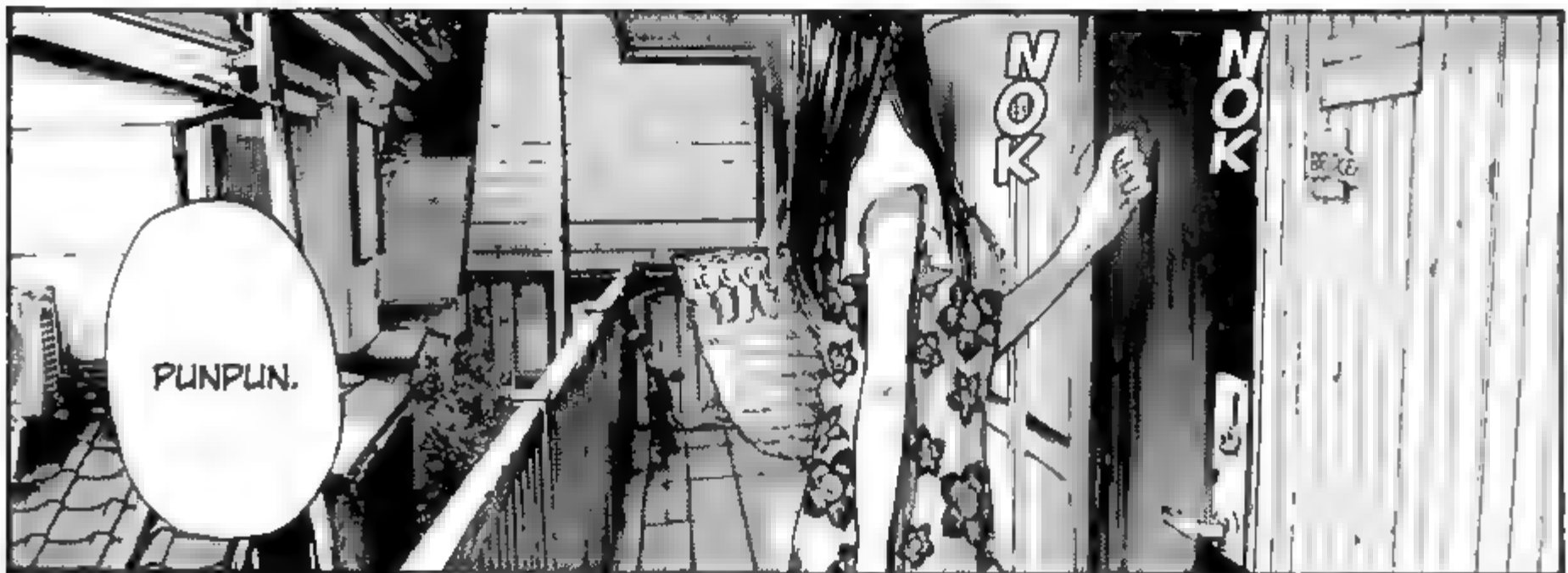
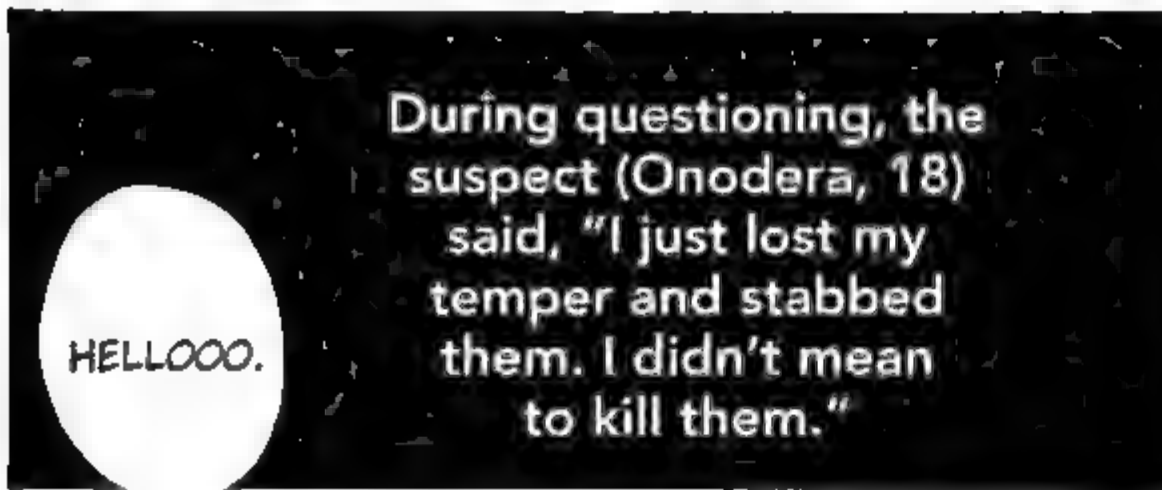
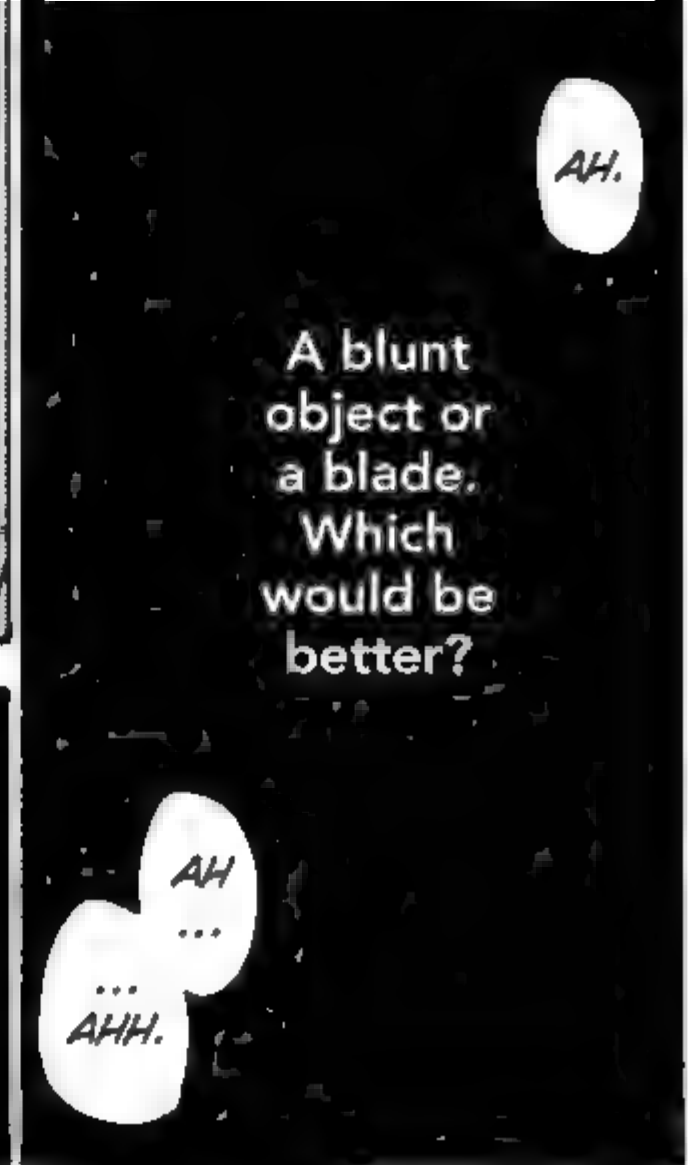


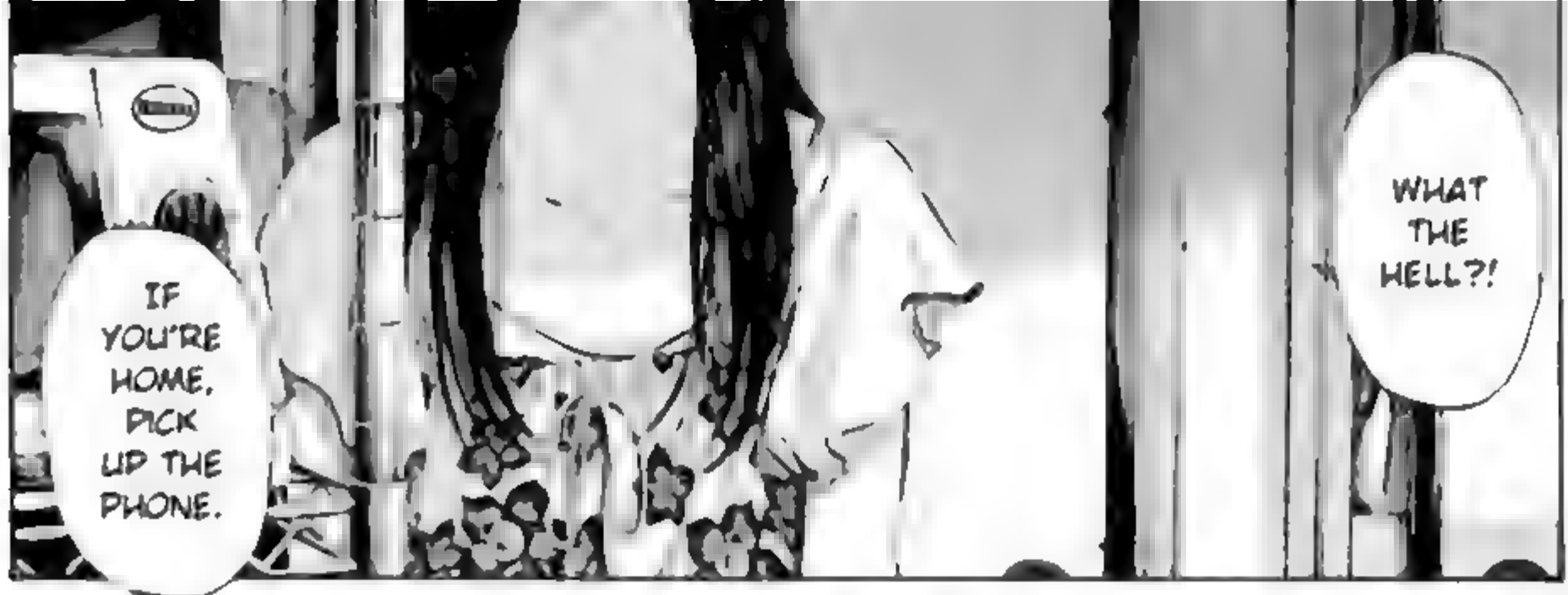
Can I
lick
your
pussy?



Shut up!!
Aaagh!!
Kafucho!!





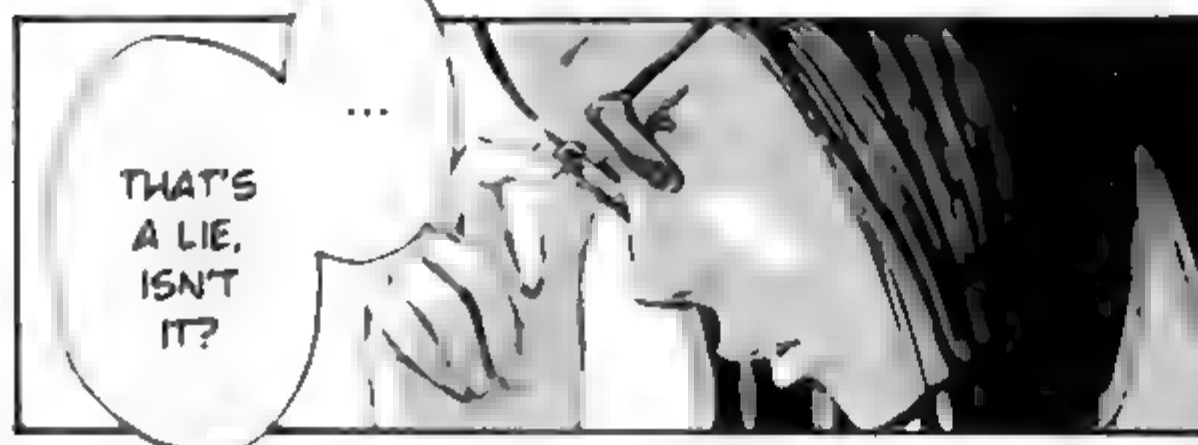


IF YOU'RE HOME, PICK UP THE PHONE.

WHAT THE HELL?!

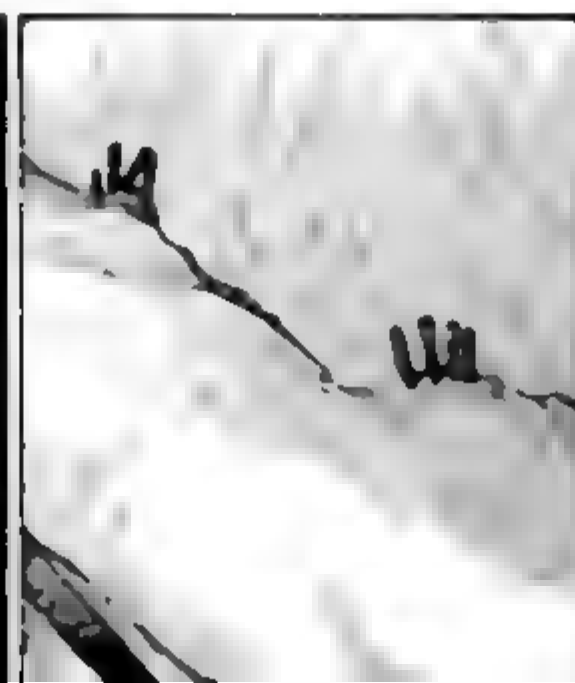


WHAT'S WRONG?



...
THAT'S A LIE, ISN'T IT?

"I'm sorry, I seem to have caught a cold, cough, cough."





WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

THAT'S
ALL
YOU
CAN
SAY?



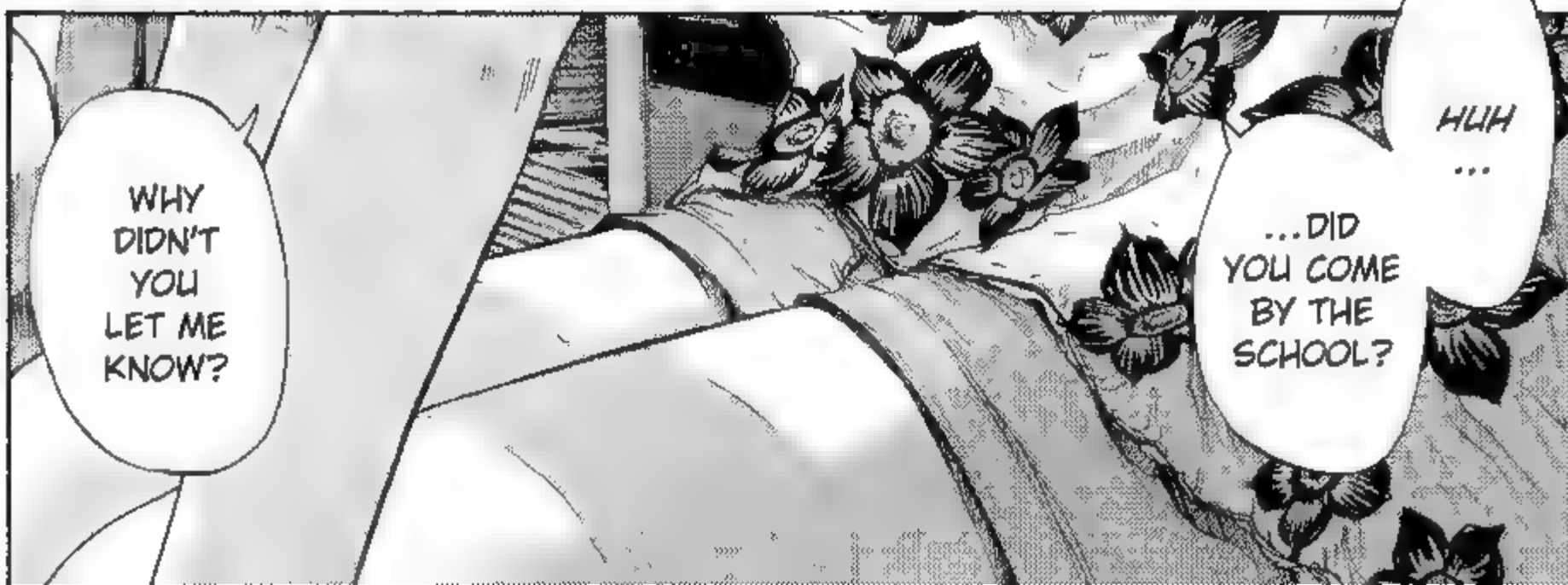
OKAY.

SHOOT.

SHOW
YOUR
FACE!

"Um, yeah,
hee hee, sorry.
I didn't mean
to get in the
way. Hee hee
hee. You've got
such a lovely
boyfriend who
c-comes and
picks you up
from work, ba
ha ha ha."

"W-well, heh
heh, um, the
fireworks,
yeah, like,
the fireworks,
I think you
should go
with your
boyfriend..."

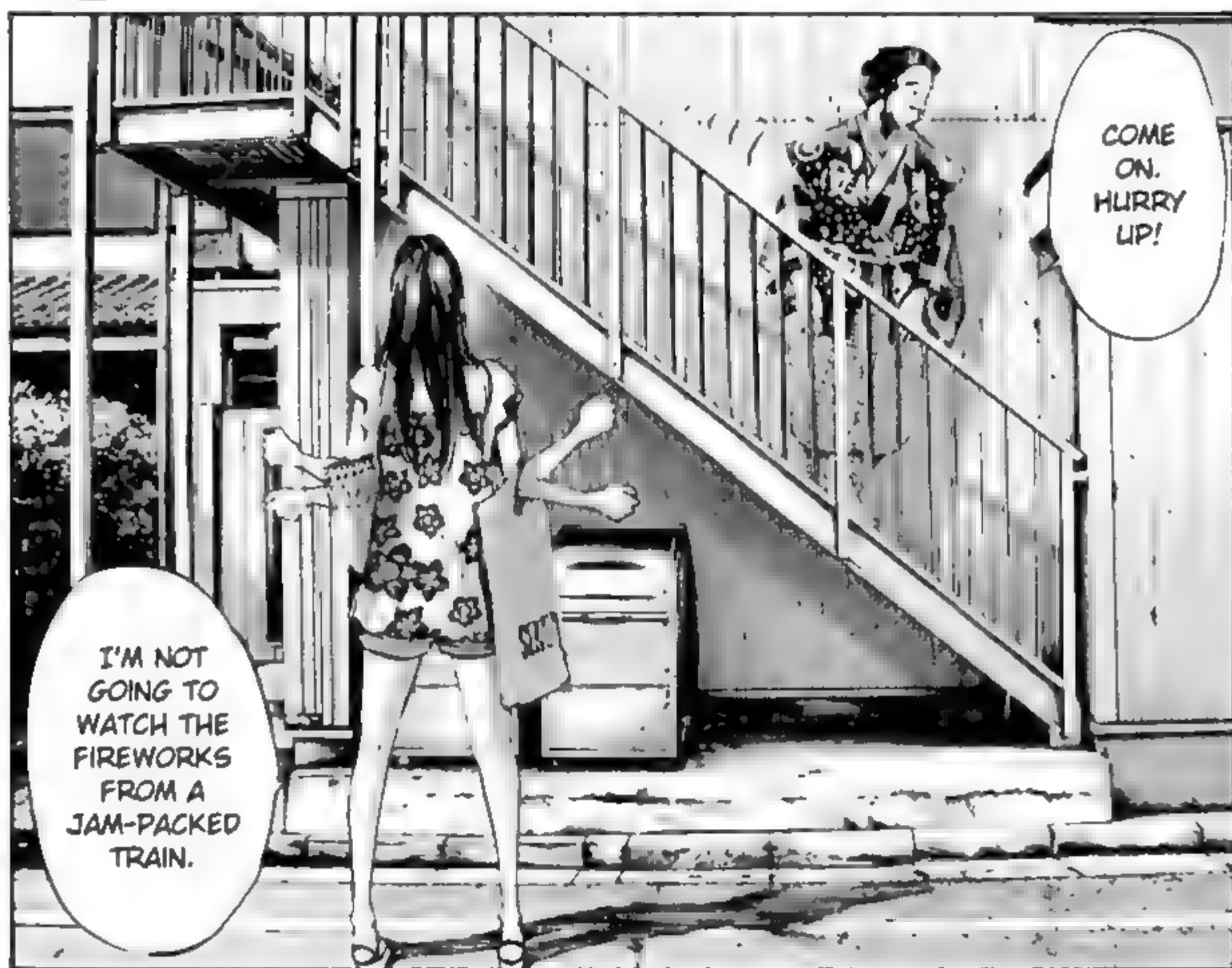


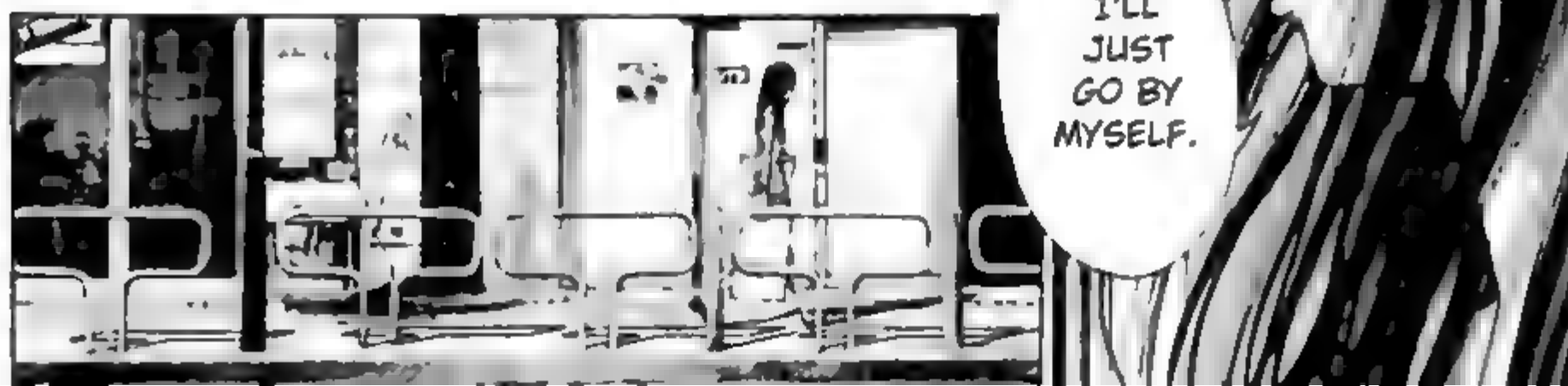
WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
LET ME
KNOW?

...DID
YOU COME
BY THE
SCHOOL?

HUH
...







"I tend to
get the
wrong
idea about
things,
so if you
continue to
be nice to
me...

"But
I...



"Sachi, you
probably
don't realize
it, but you're
an amazing
person who's
nice to
everyone.



"...I'll
fall in
love with
you."





"I'm
perfectly
happy with
our current
relationship.

Have

"But
please
forget
I said
anything.

"I feel
much
better
now that
I've told
you.



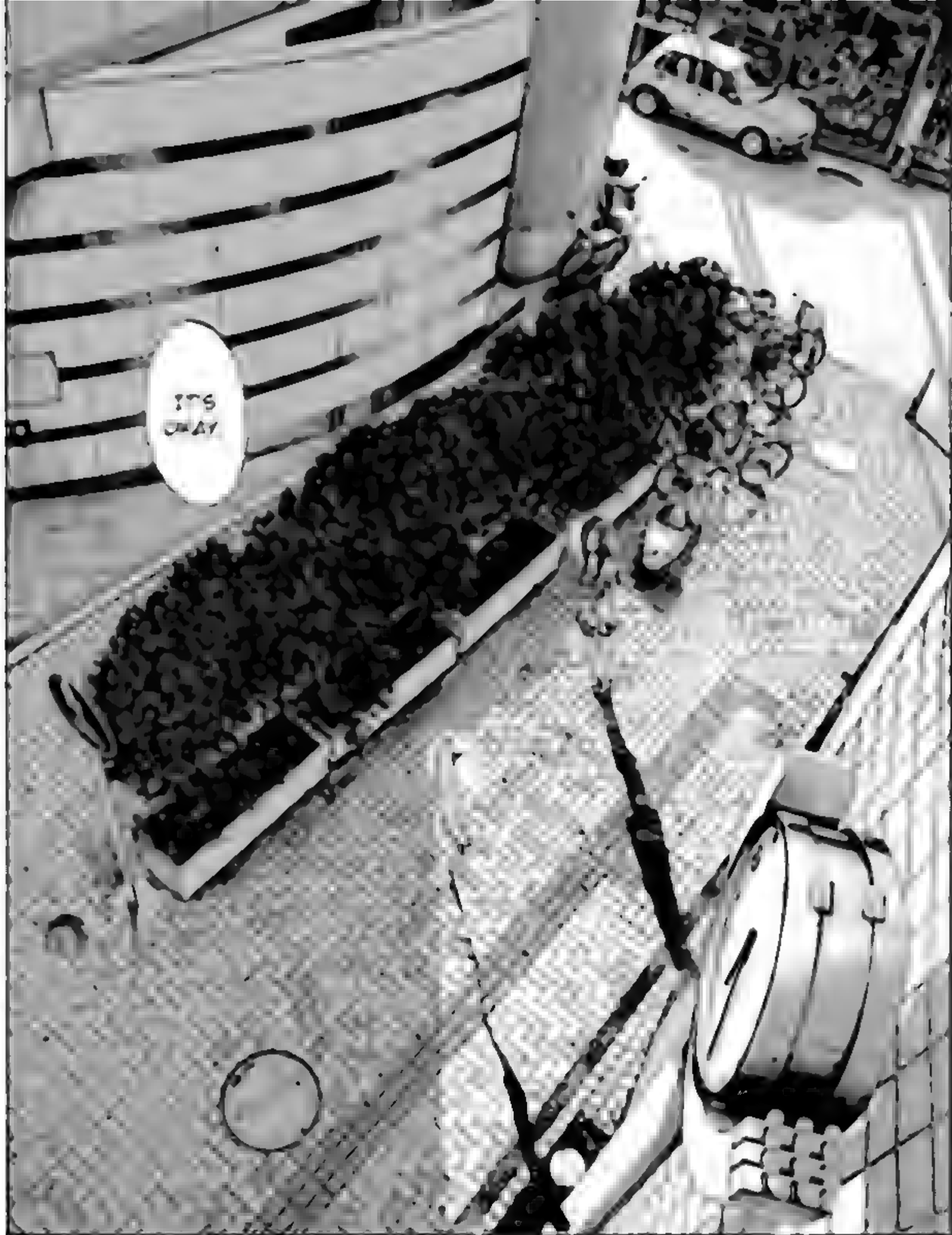
"It's going to start soon."

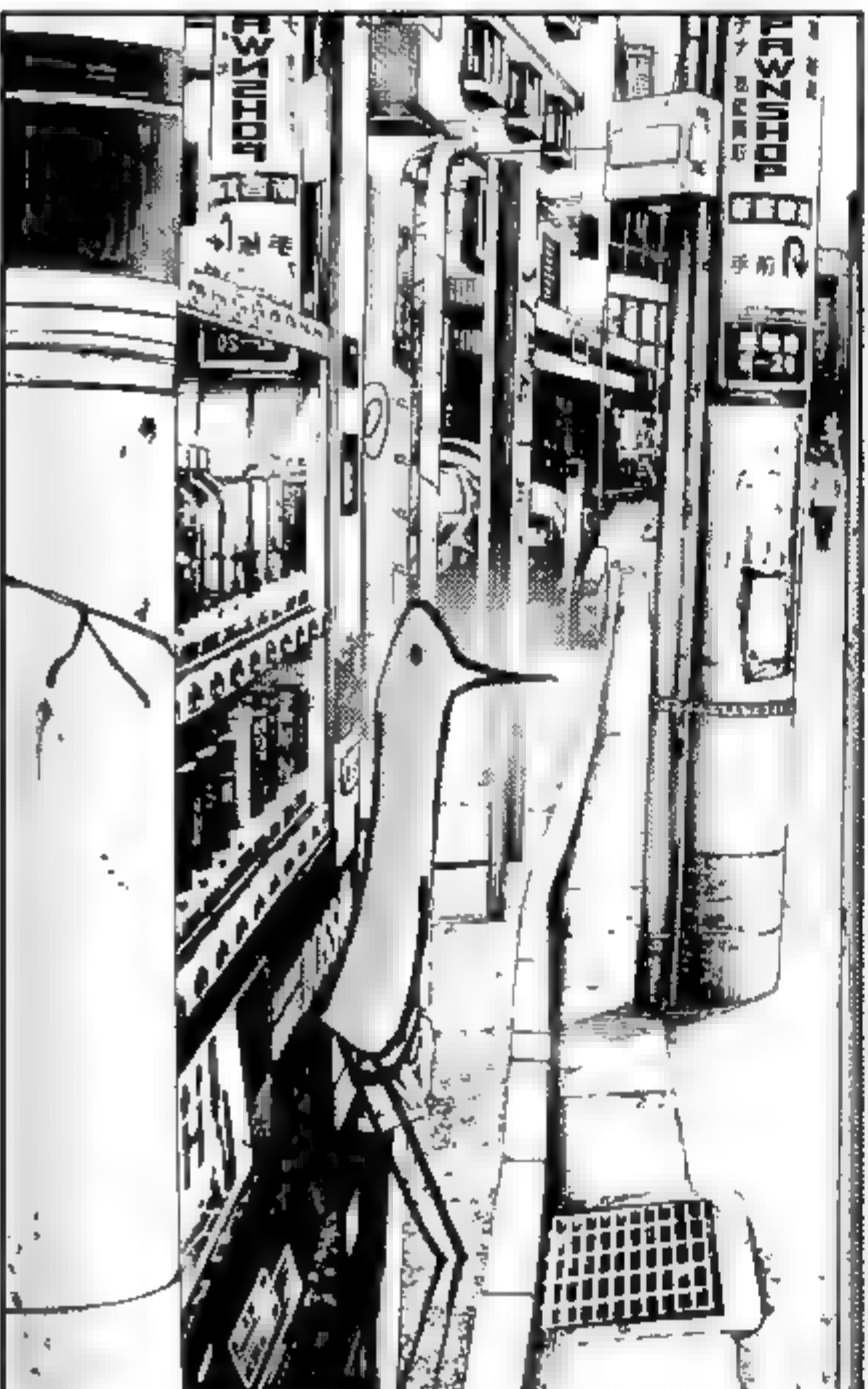
"Okay, let's hurry."



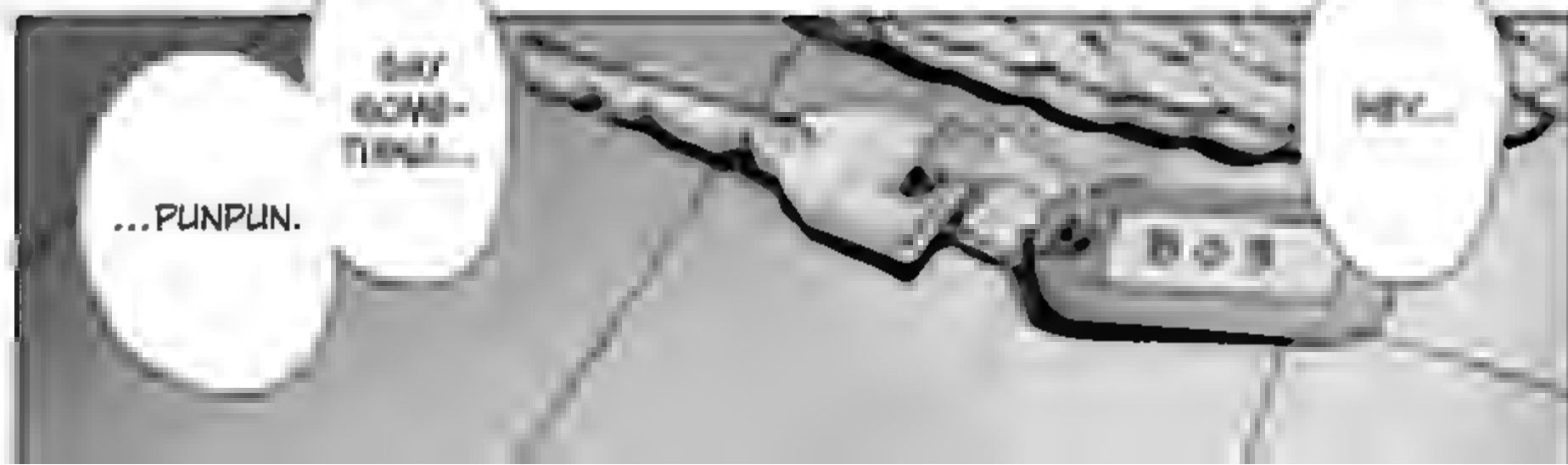
YOU KNOW.













"Lately,
I've been
thinking
about
who you
remind
me of."



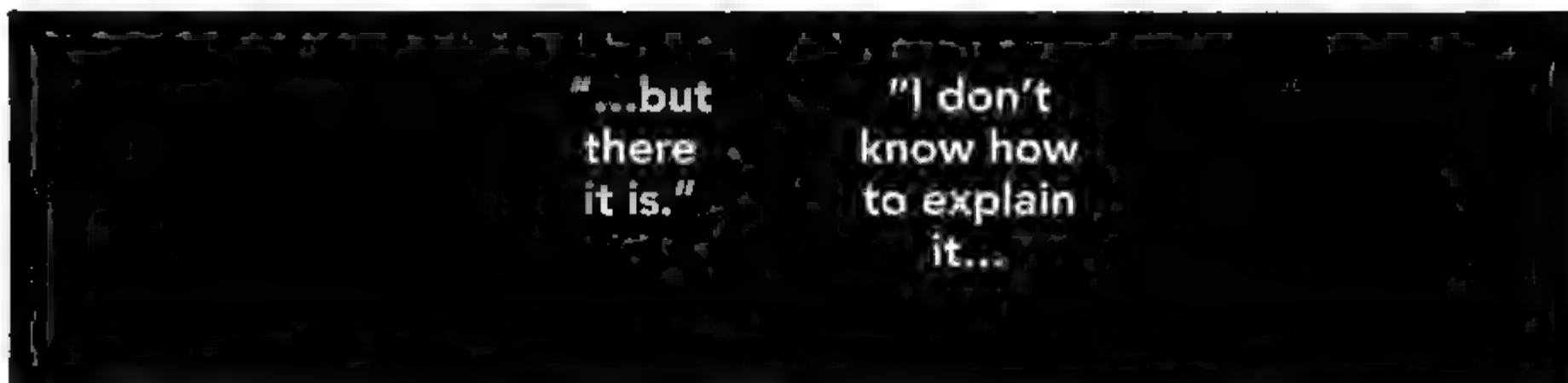
"...and
I doubt
I'll ever
forgive
her,
but...

"I still
hate
her,
even
though
she's
dead



"Your
person-
ality and
temper-
ament
are like
hers.

"You're
like my
mom.



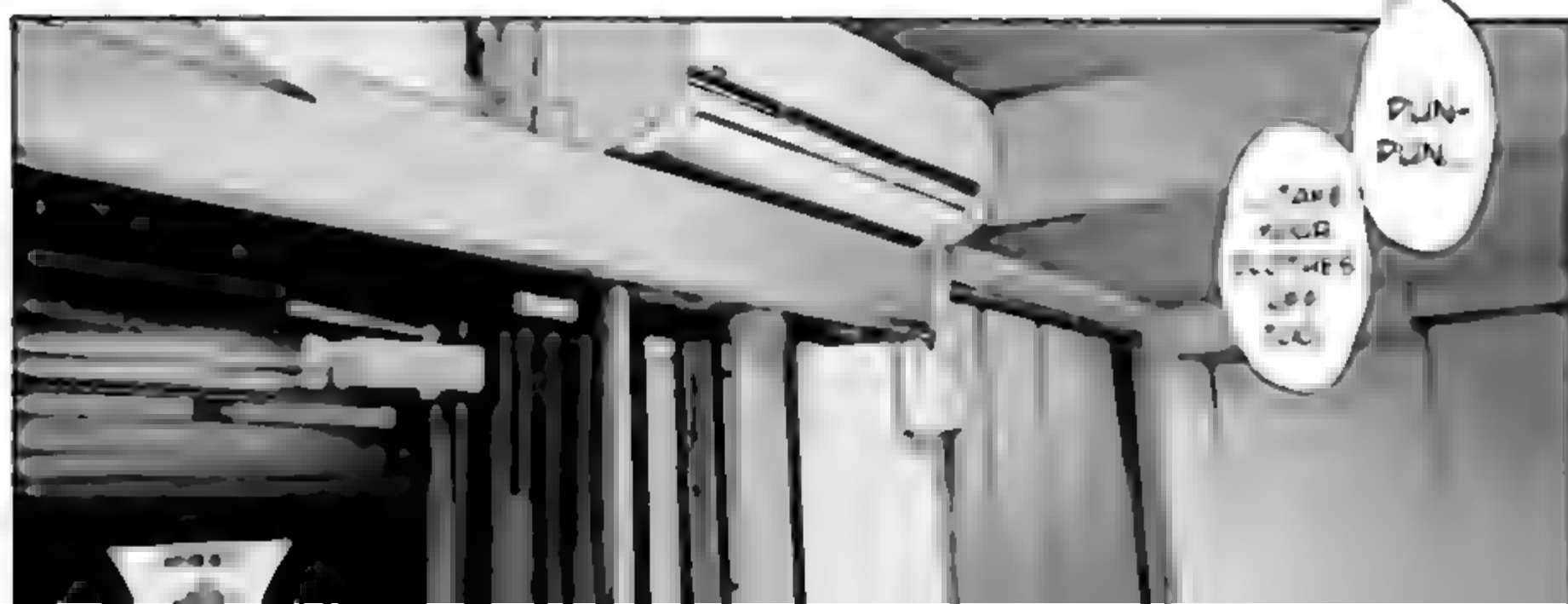
"...but
there
it is."

"I don't
know how
to explain
it...









Goodbye,
Kanta.



Goodbye,
Matori.



Goodbye,
Ako.



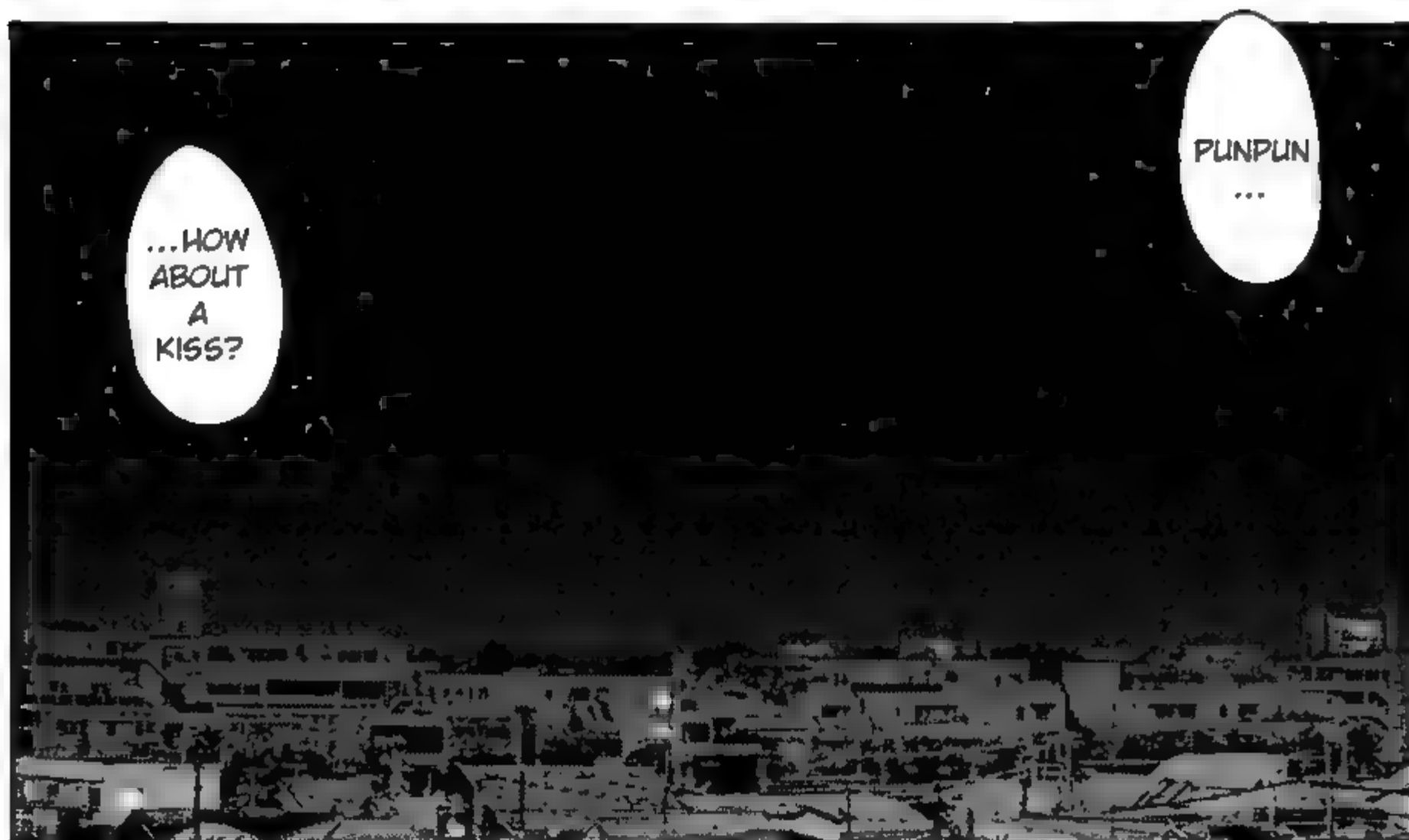
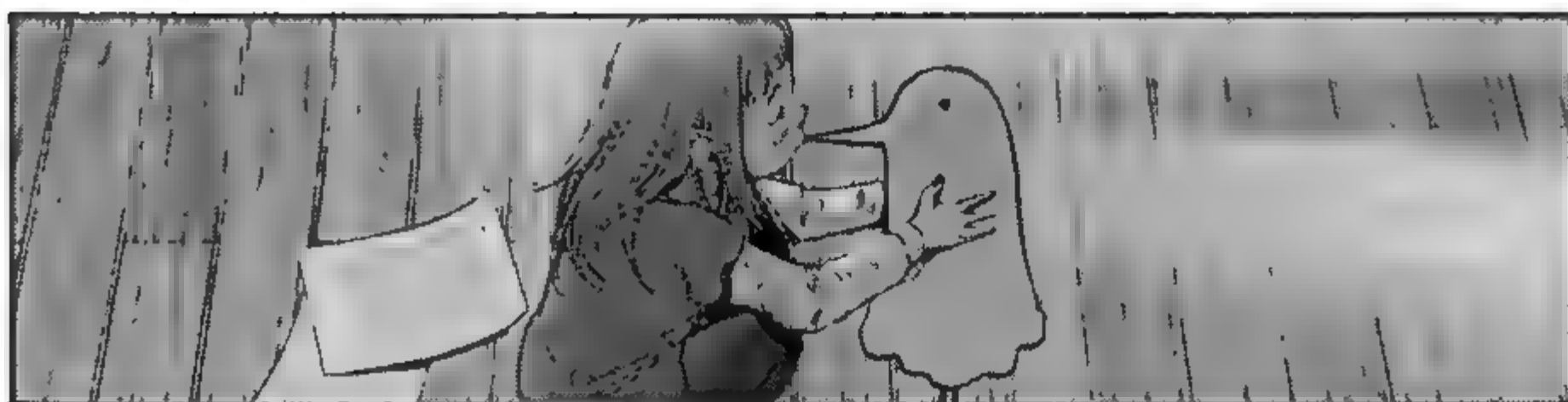
HEY

"I'm
all right
now."



PUNPUN

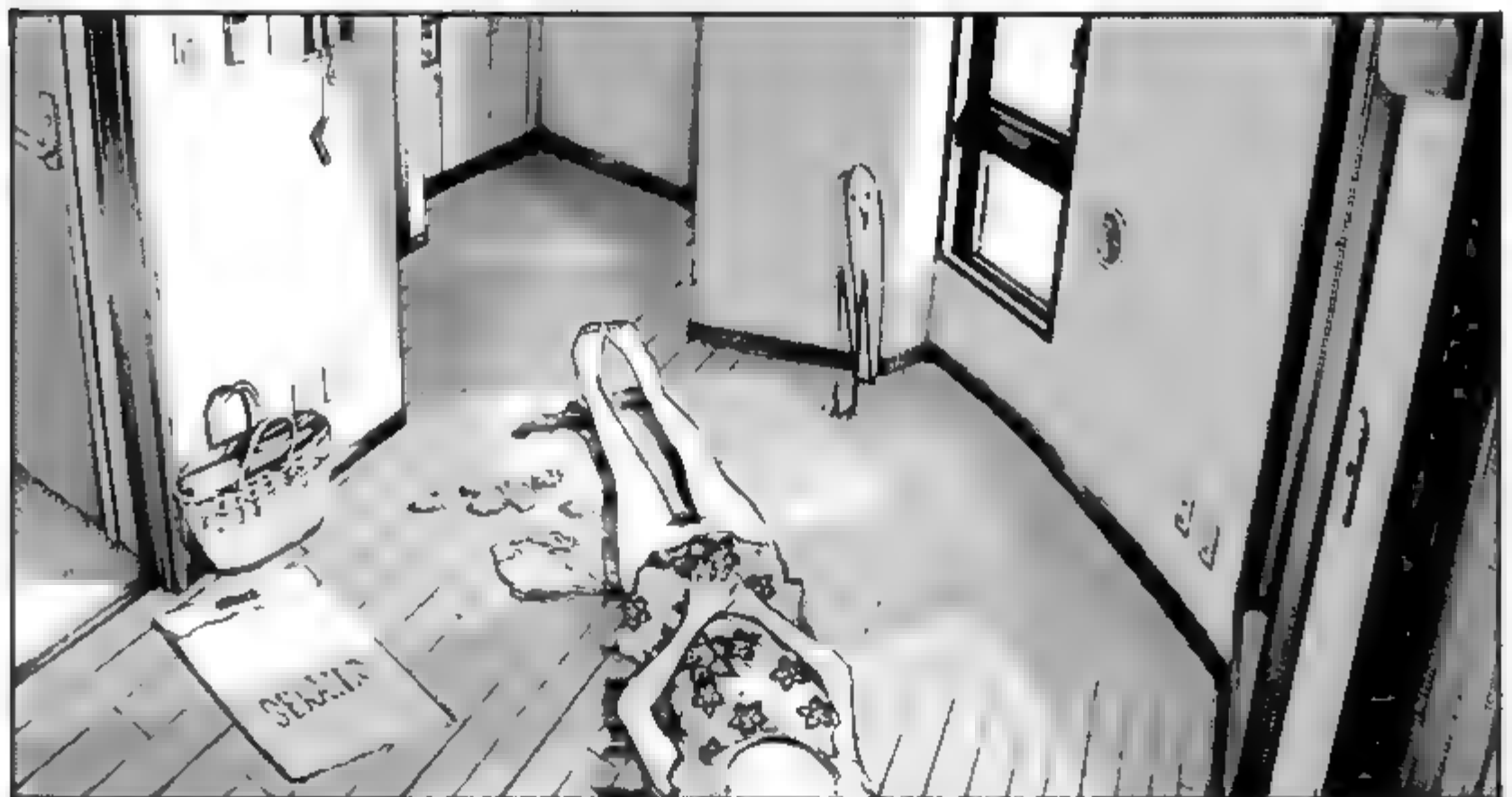
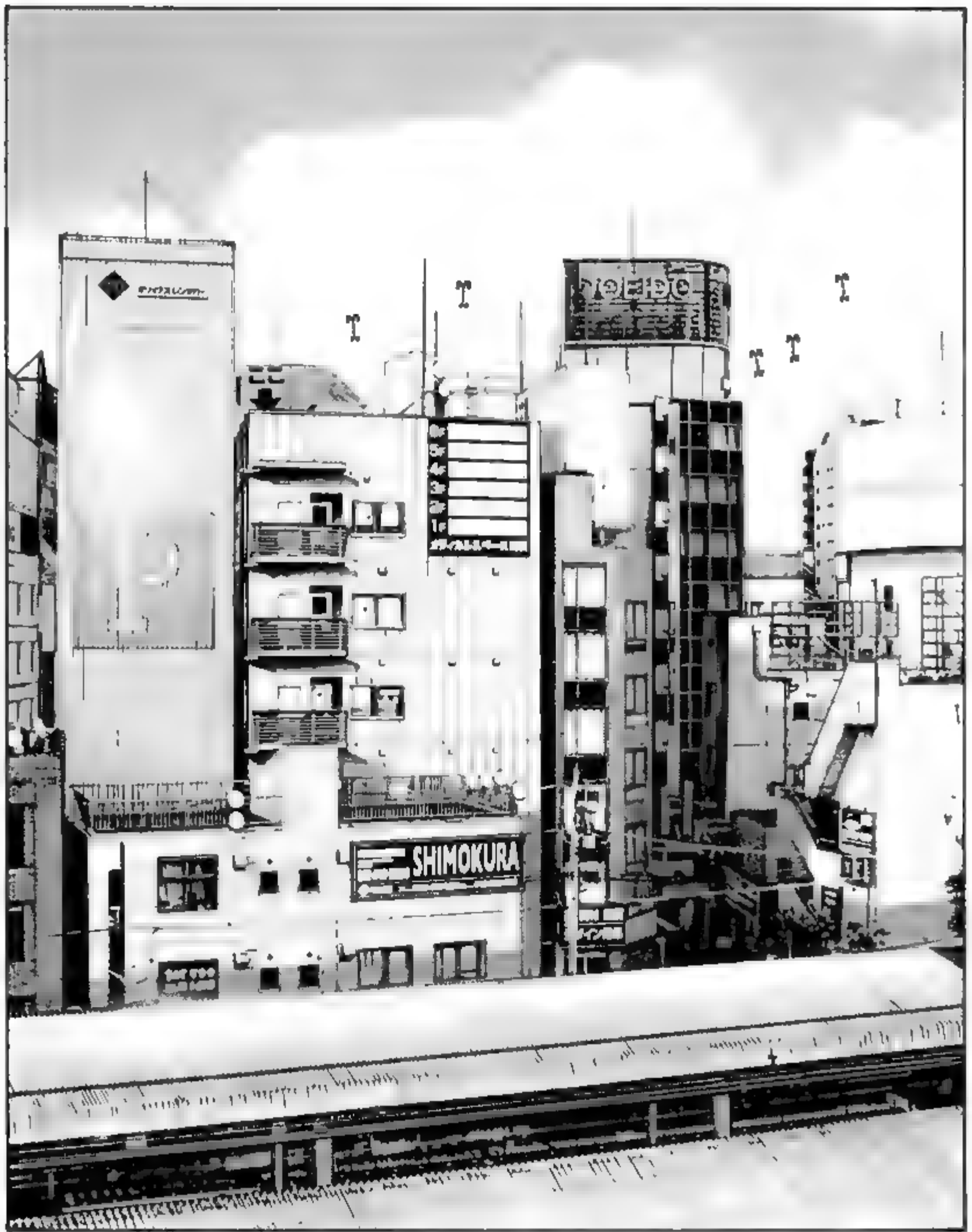
HOW
ABOUT
A
KISS?

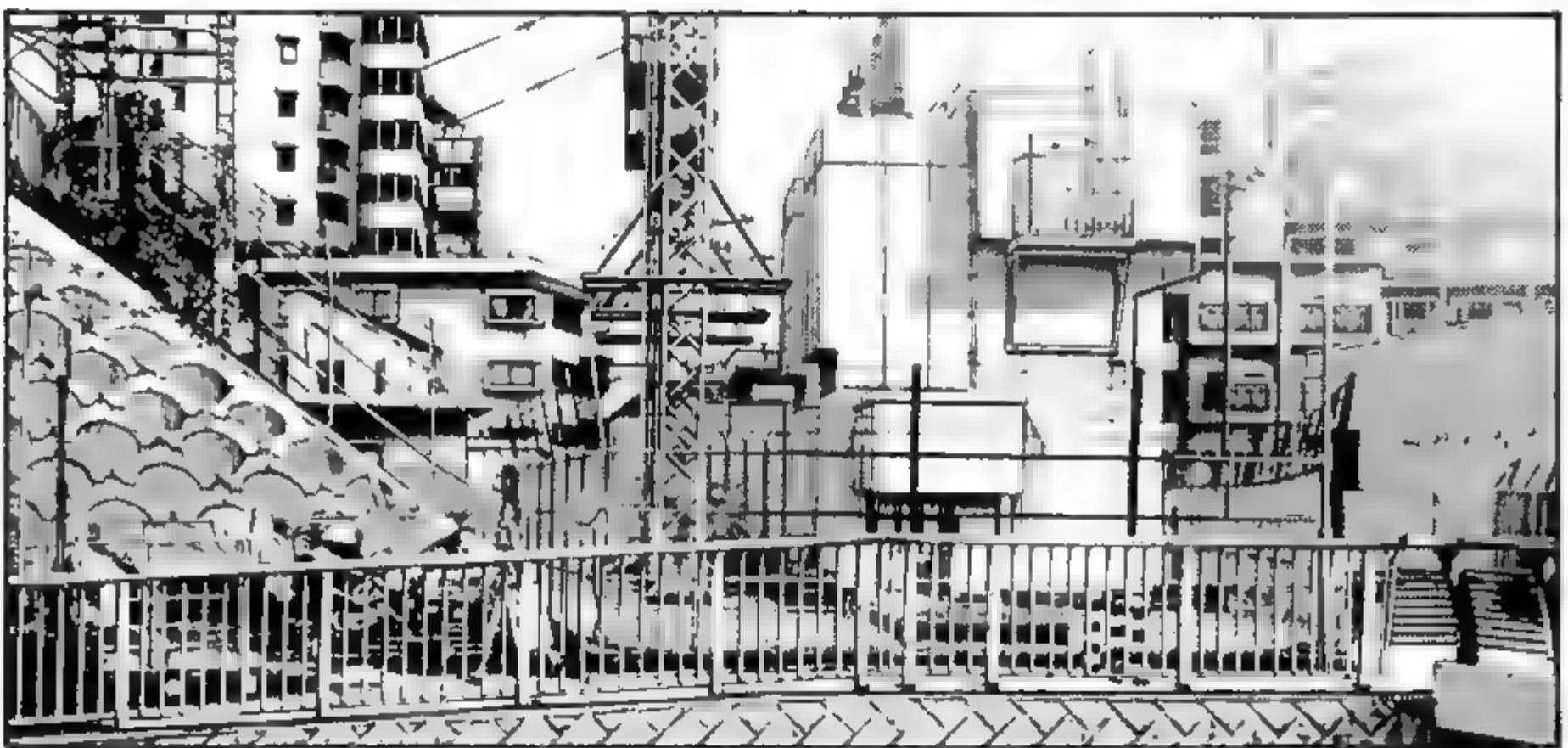


...HOW
ABOUT
A
KISS?

PUNPUN
...

"I'm..."





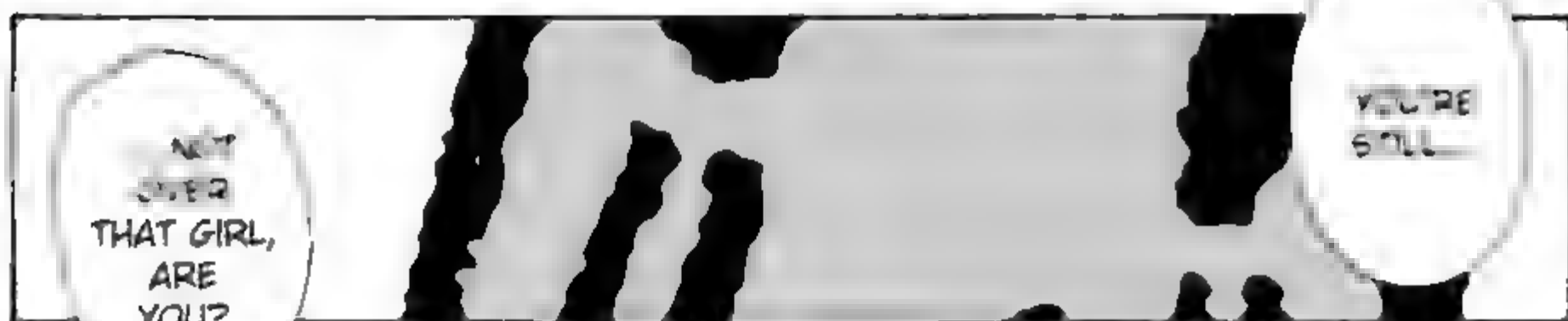
"You can
call me
'Hit it
and quit
it' from
now on."

"Sachi."

YEAH?



GET
UP.



NOT
OVER
THAT GIRL,
ARE
YOU?

YOU'RE
STILL

"If having
sex was all it
took to get
rid of the
chaos..."

"In all
my 18
years..."



"...then
what
was the
point of
my life
up until
now?"



"...I've never
despaired
of life as
much as I
have today."



IF I
WASN'T
INTO YOU, IT
WOULDN'T
HAVE
HAPPENED.

I WAS
JUST A
LITTLE
LONELY.

WHAT-
EVER...



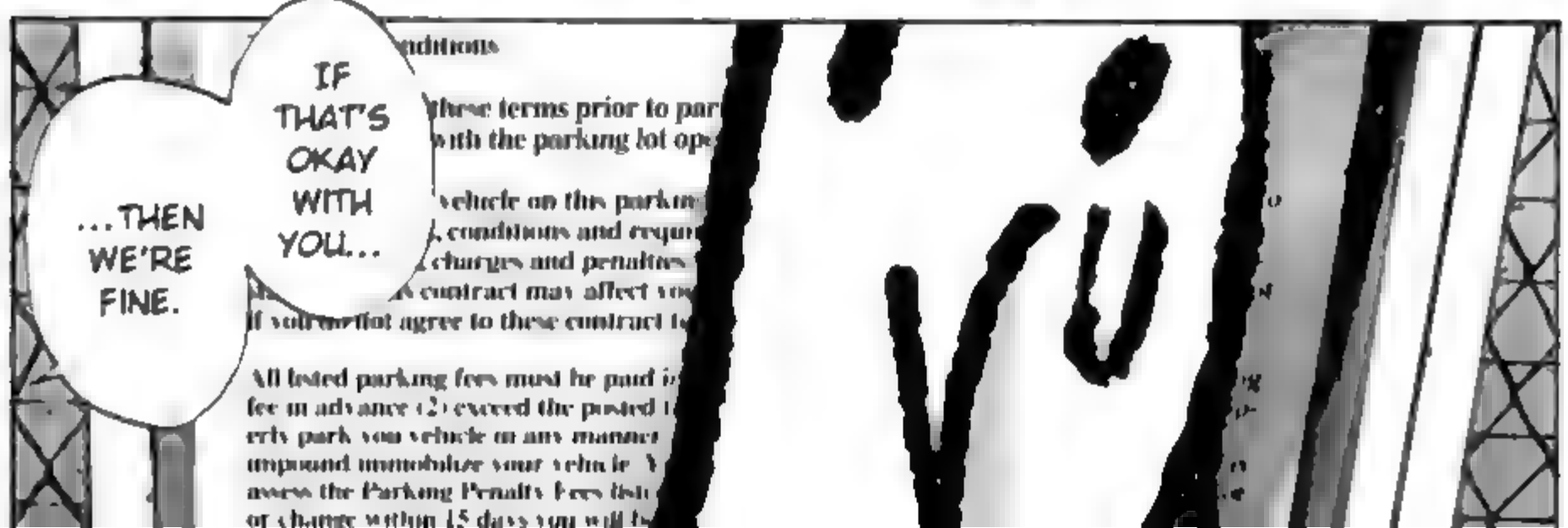
HAVING
SEX
ONCE...

...DOESN'T
MEAN WE'RE
SUDDENLY
DATING.

IT DOESN'T
HAVE TO
CHANGE OUR
RELATIONSHIP.



I STILL
WANT TO
WORK
WITH
YOU.

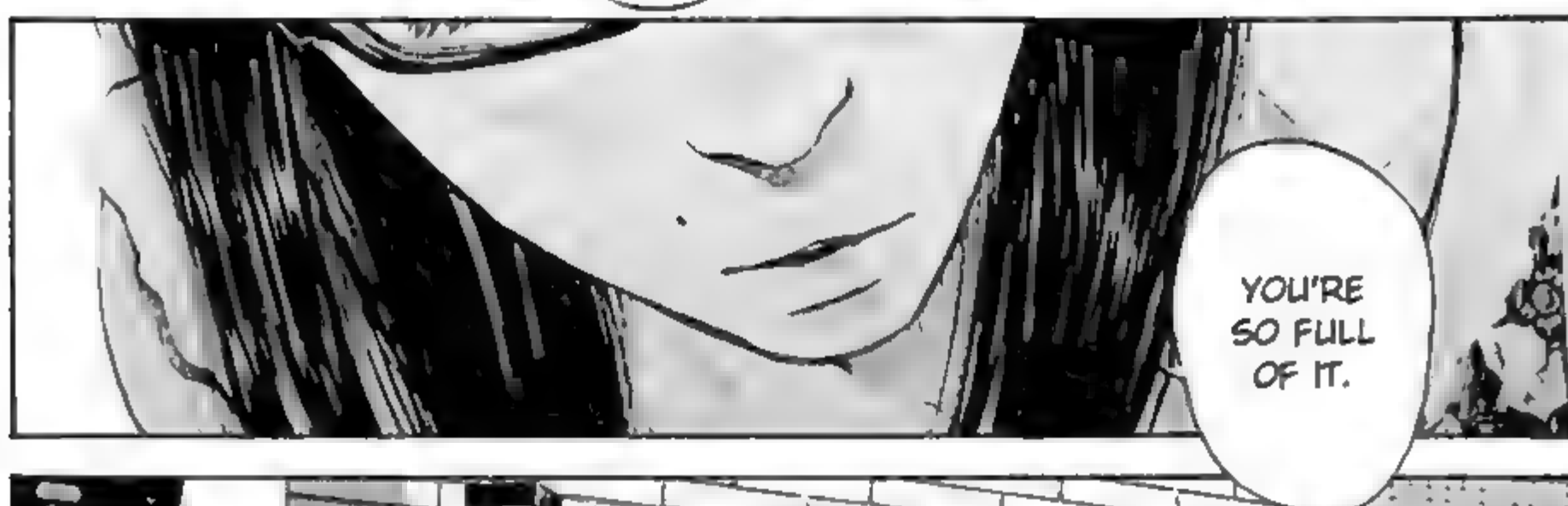
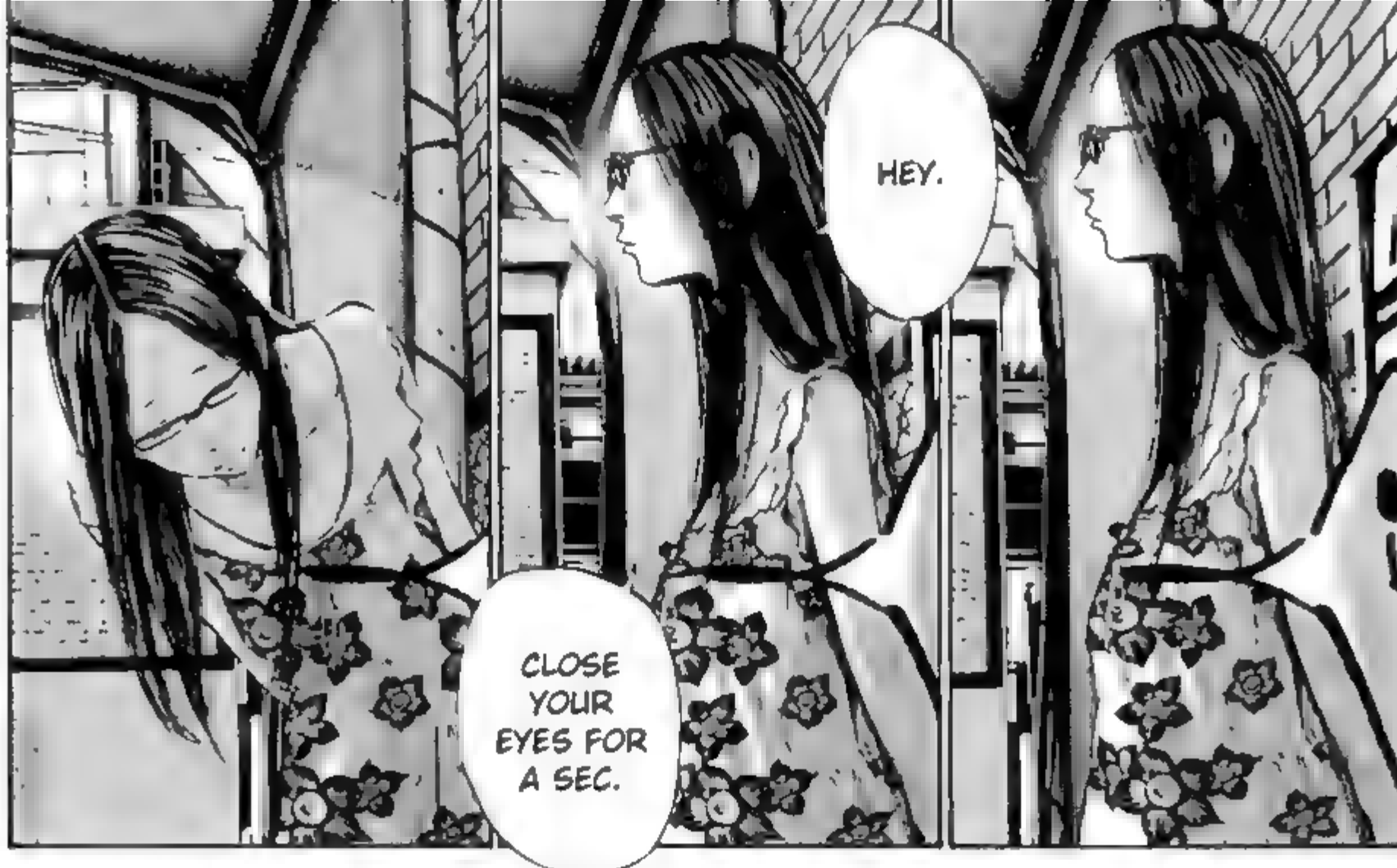


...THEN
WE'RE
FINE.

IF
THAT'S
OKAY
WITH
YOU...

Conditions
These terms prior to par
with the parking lot op
vehicle on this parking
conditions and requir
charges and penalties
A contract may affect you
If you do not agree to these contract to

All listed parking fees must be paid in
fee in advance (2) exceed the posted
erly park your vehicle in any manner
impound immobilize your vehicle. You
access the Parking Penalty Fees list
or change within 15 days you will be

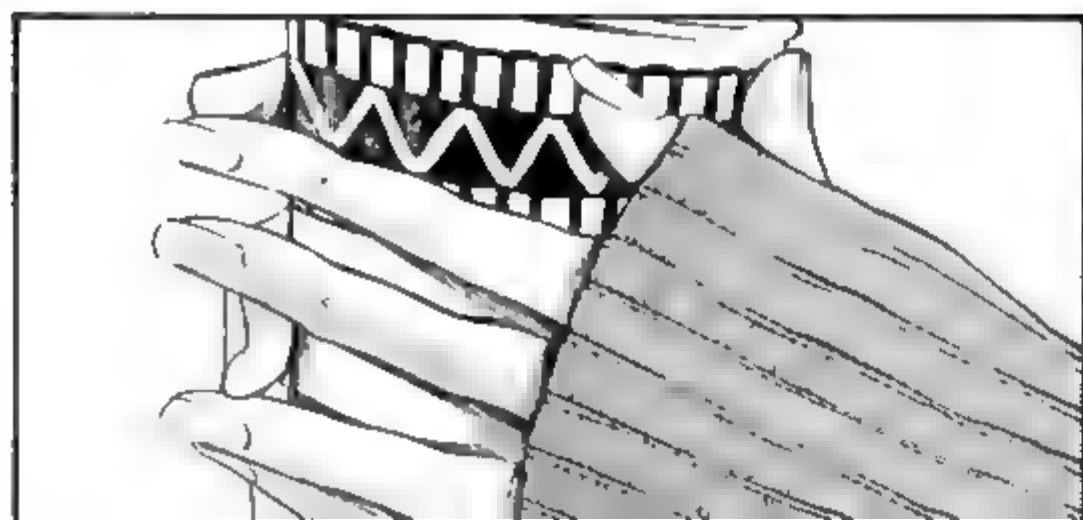
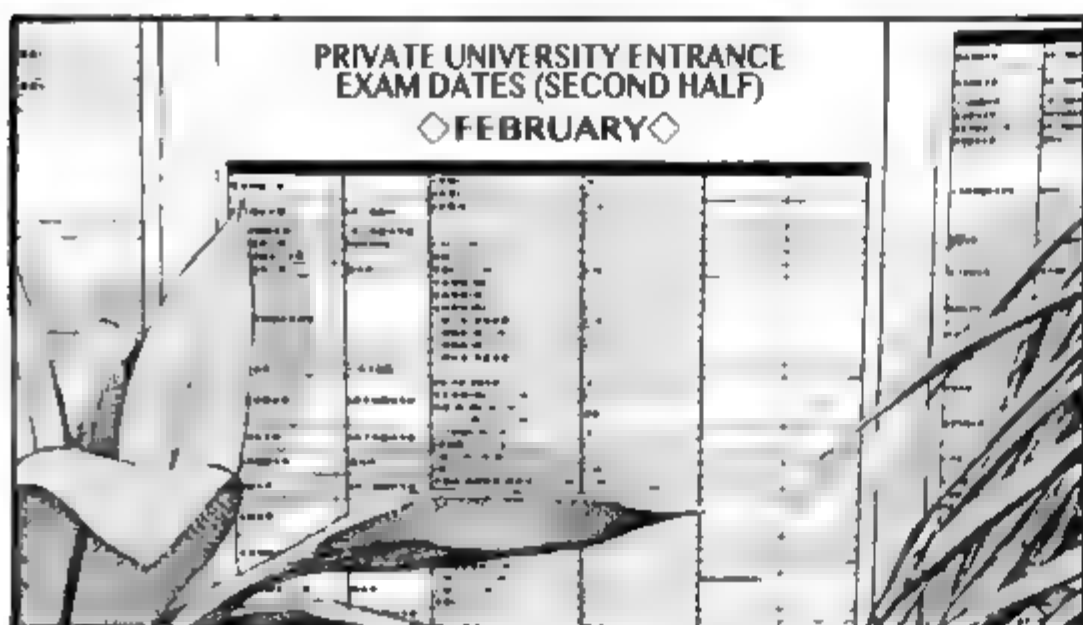
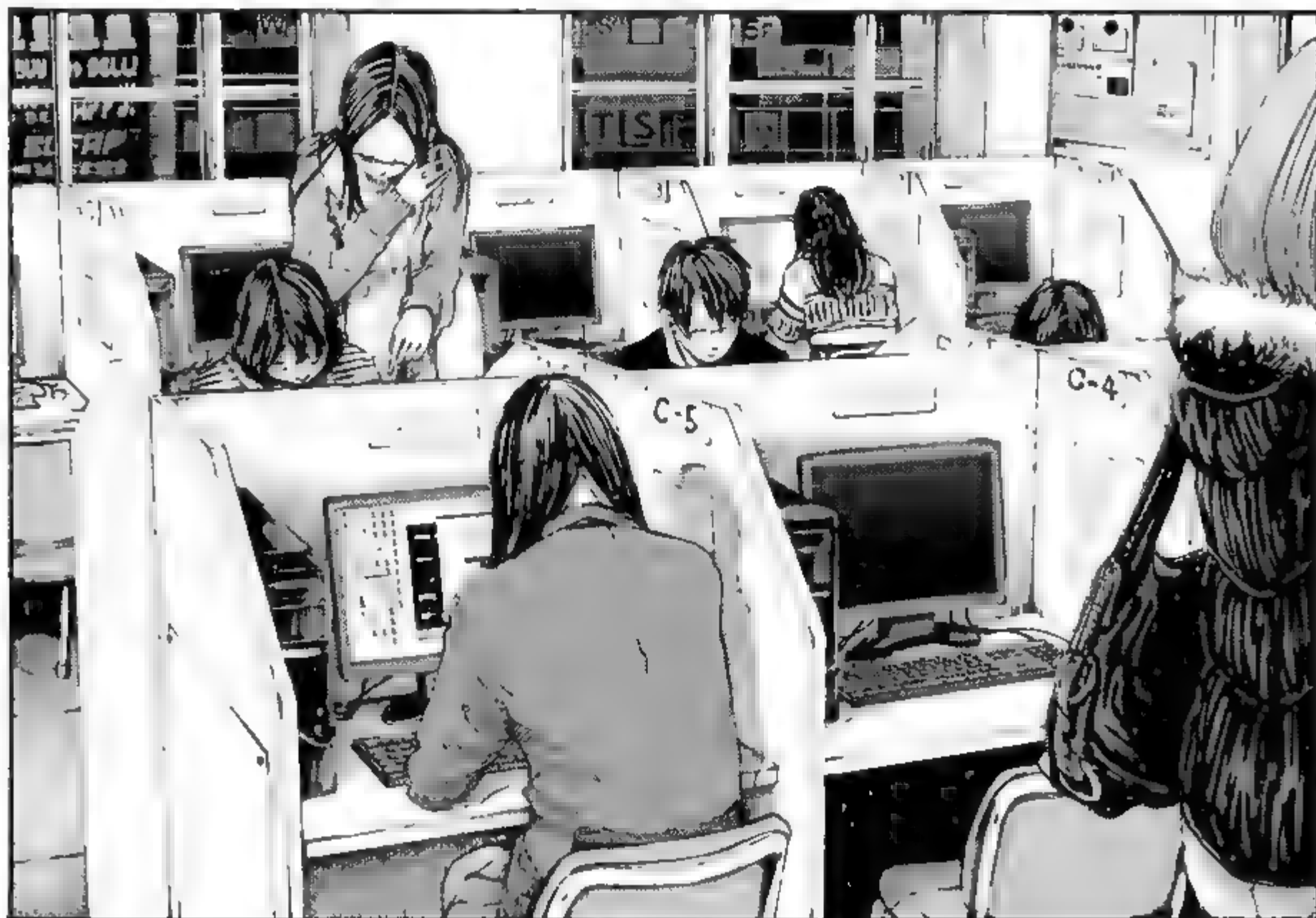




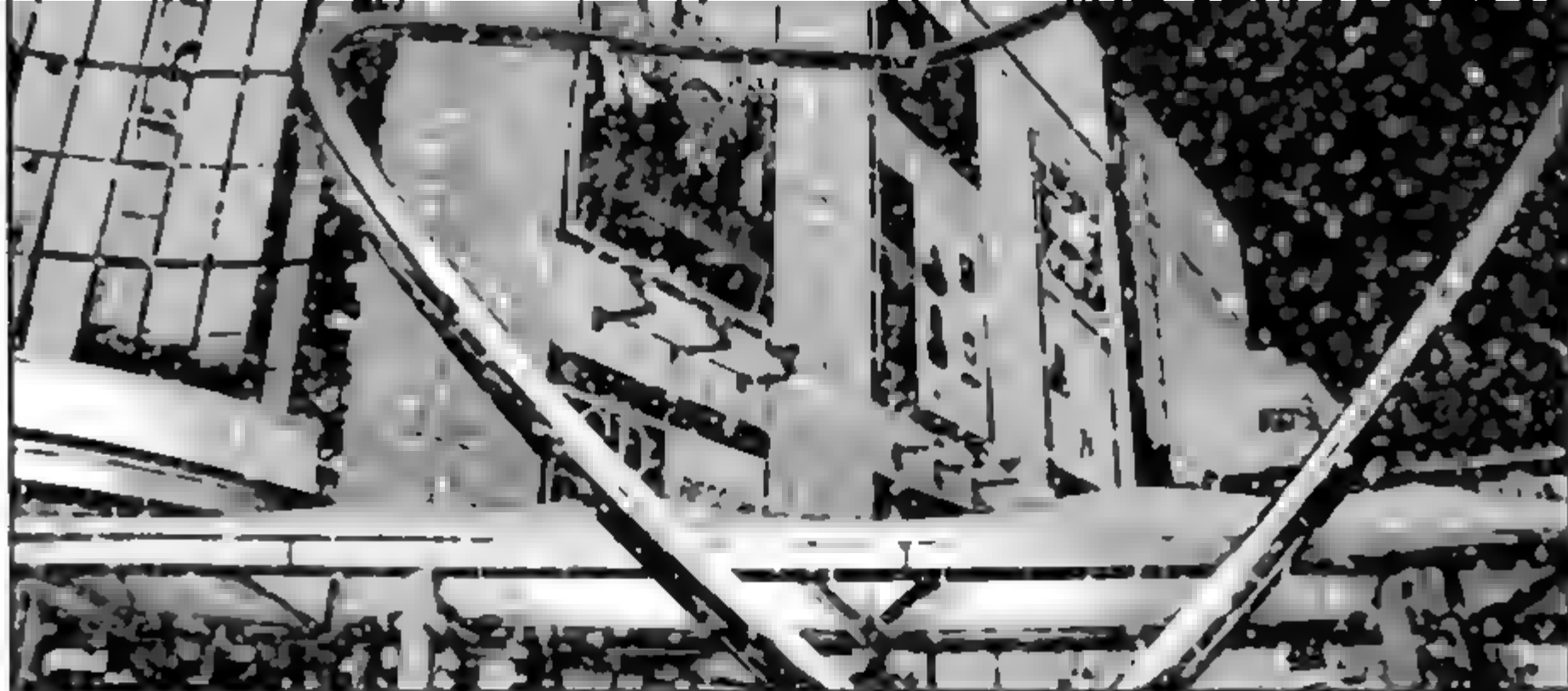




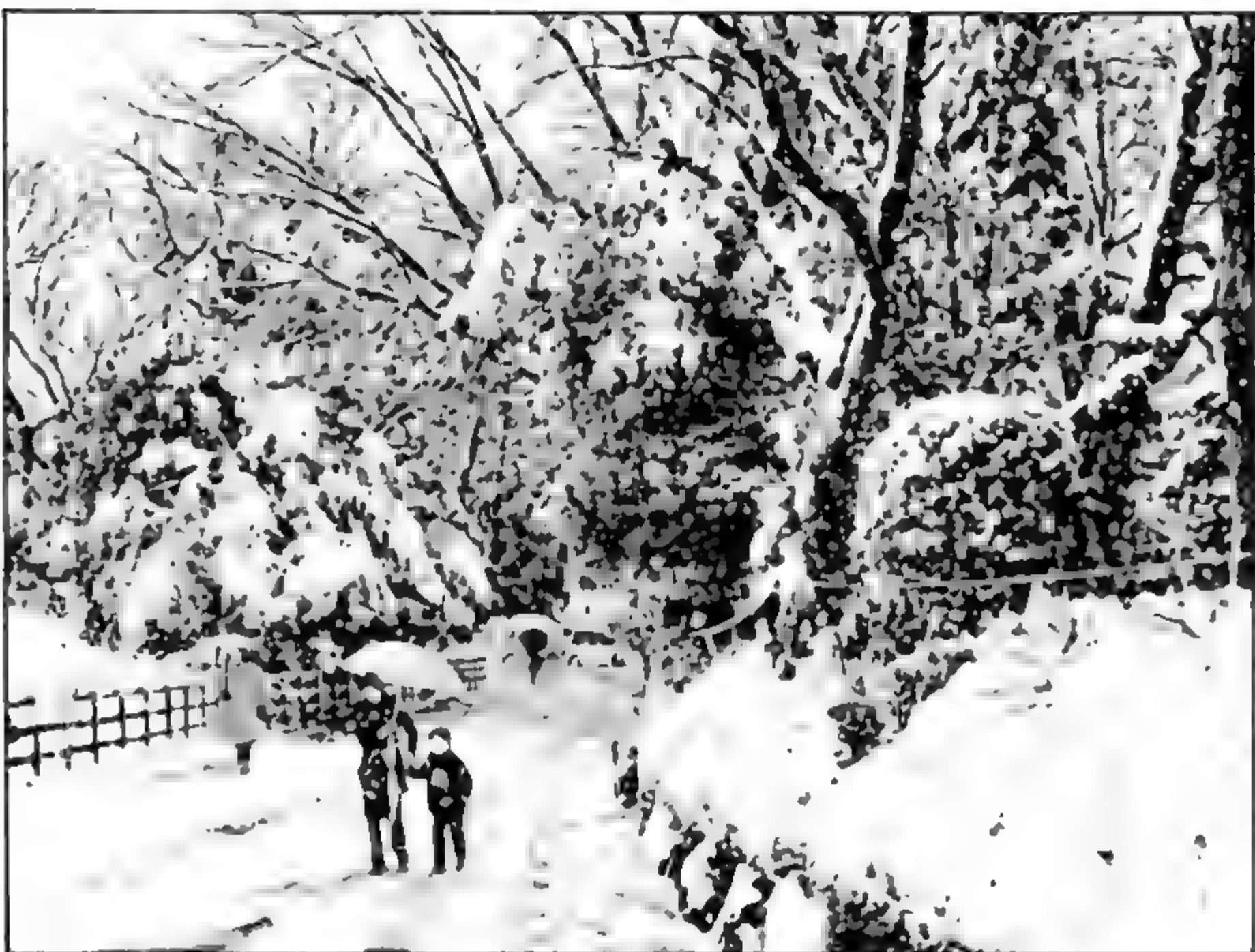


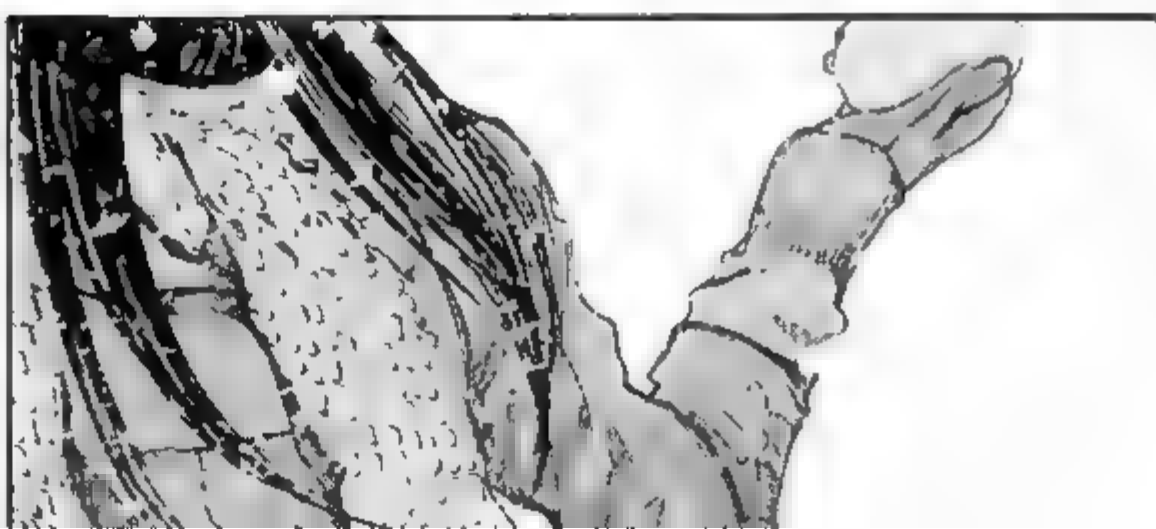
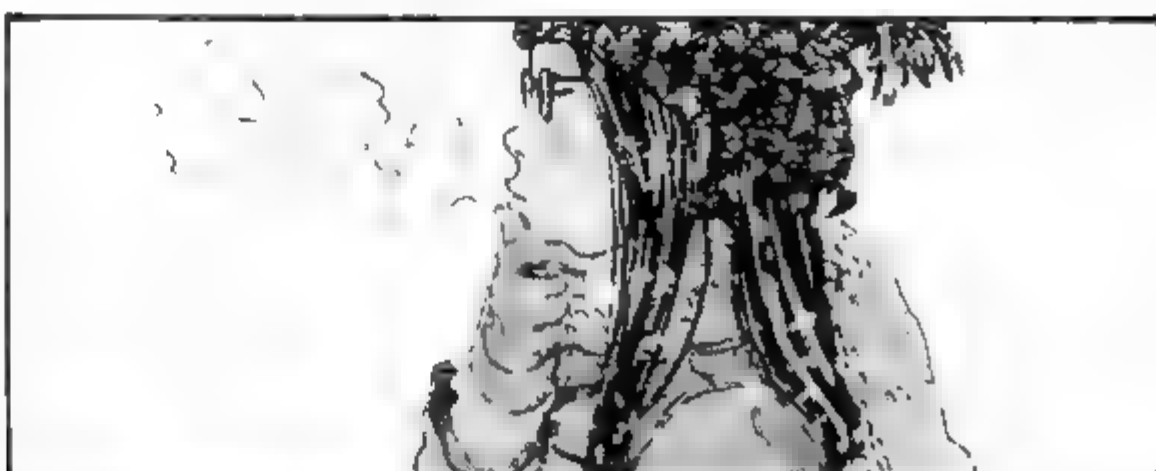


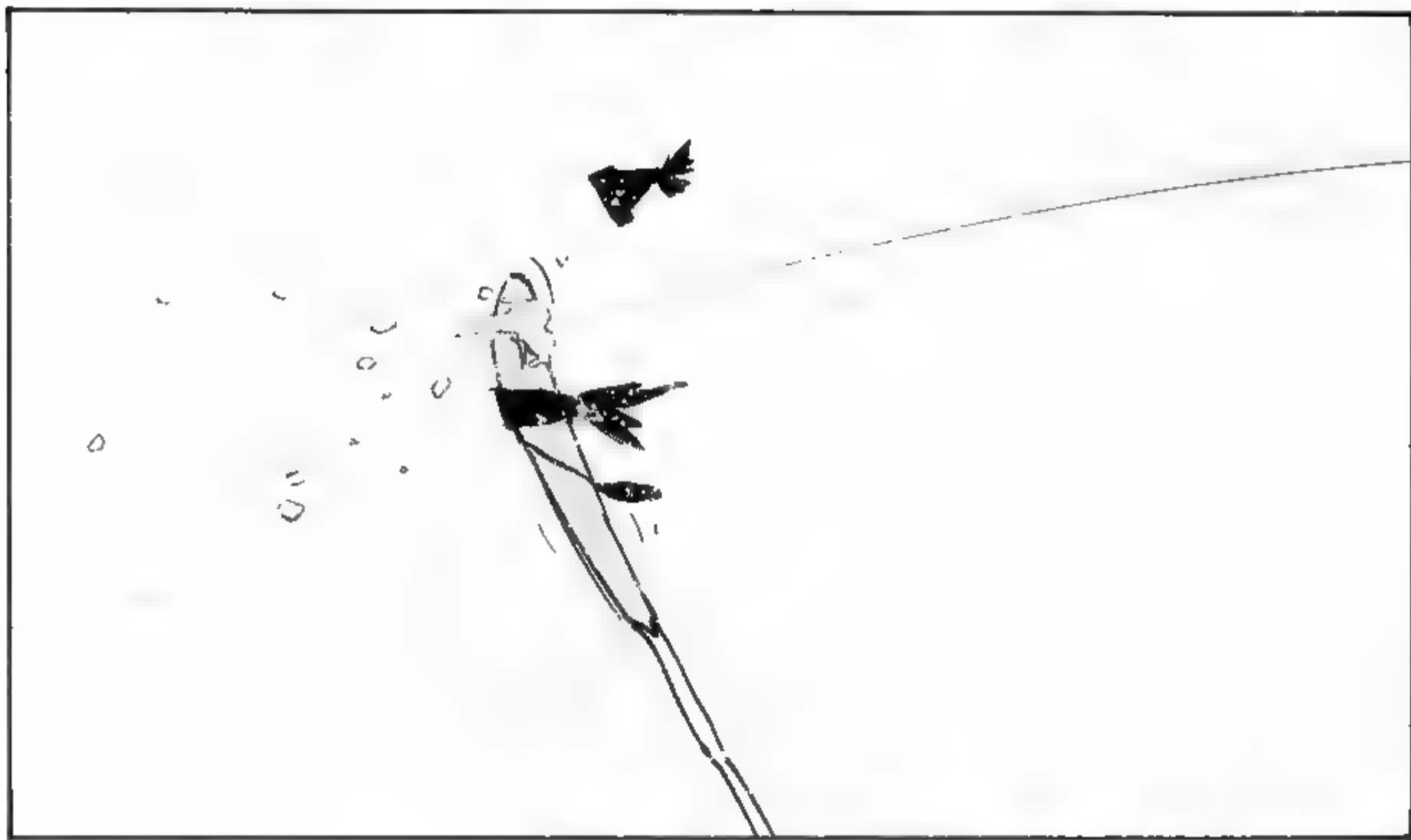




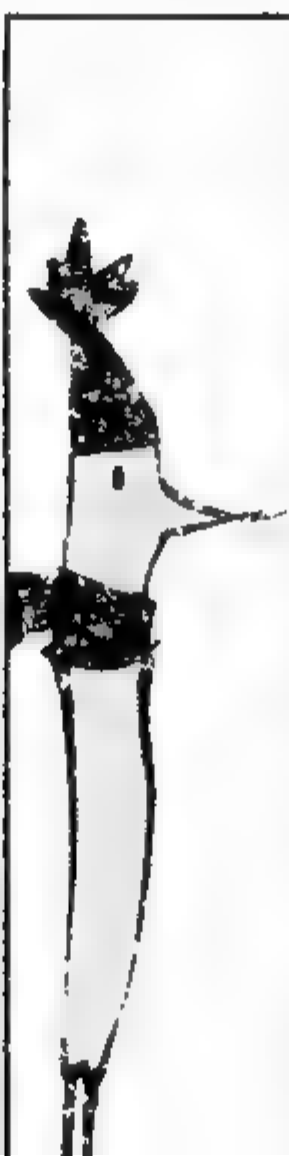
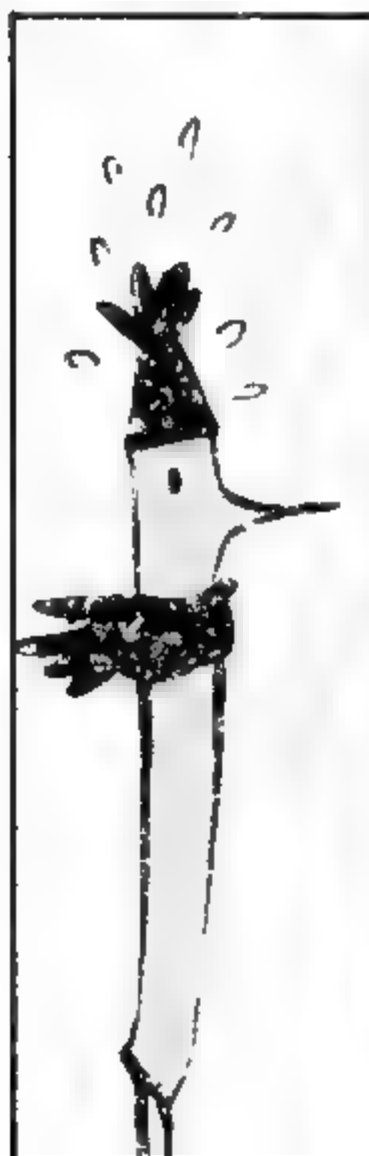
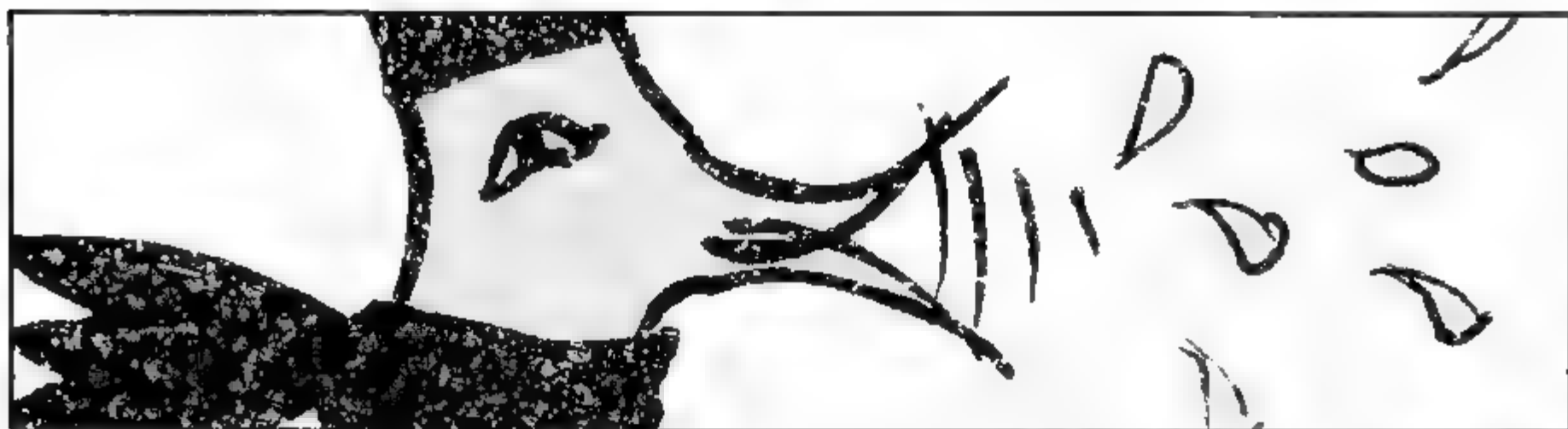


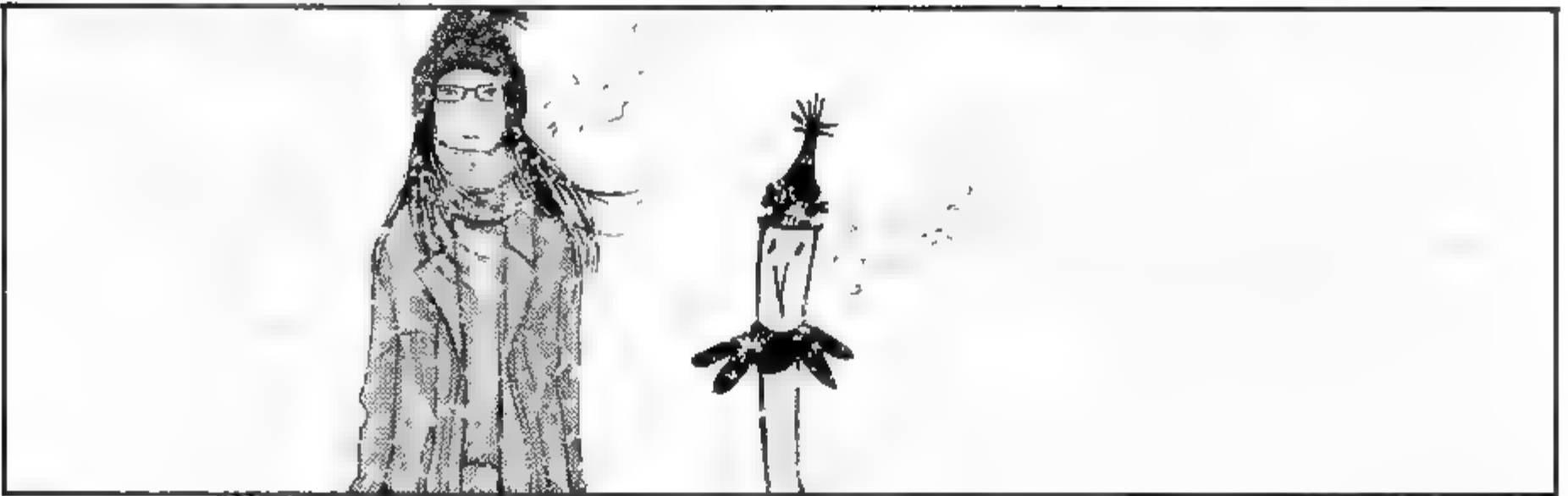
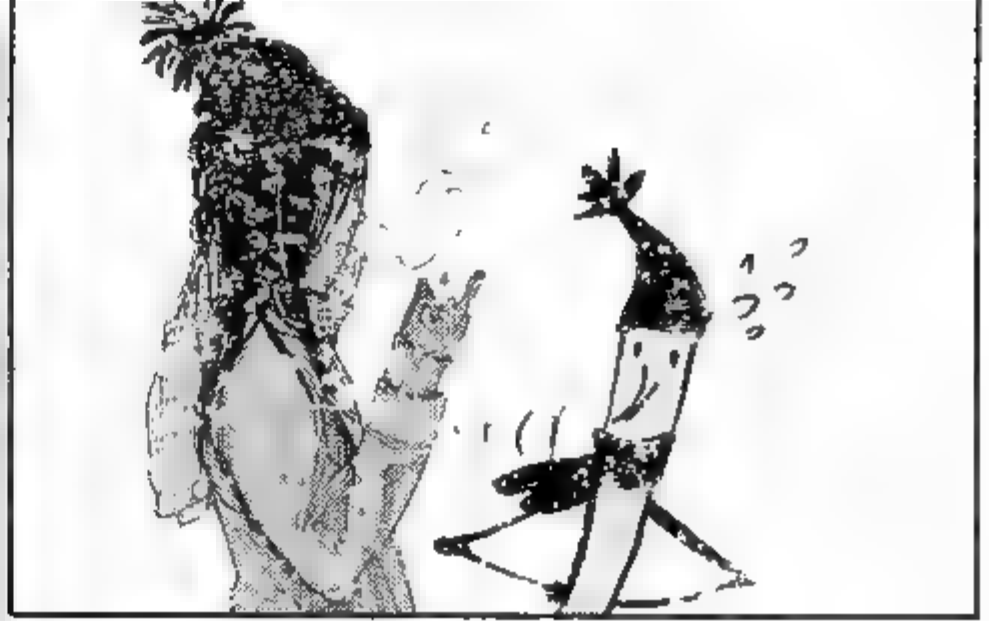




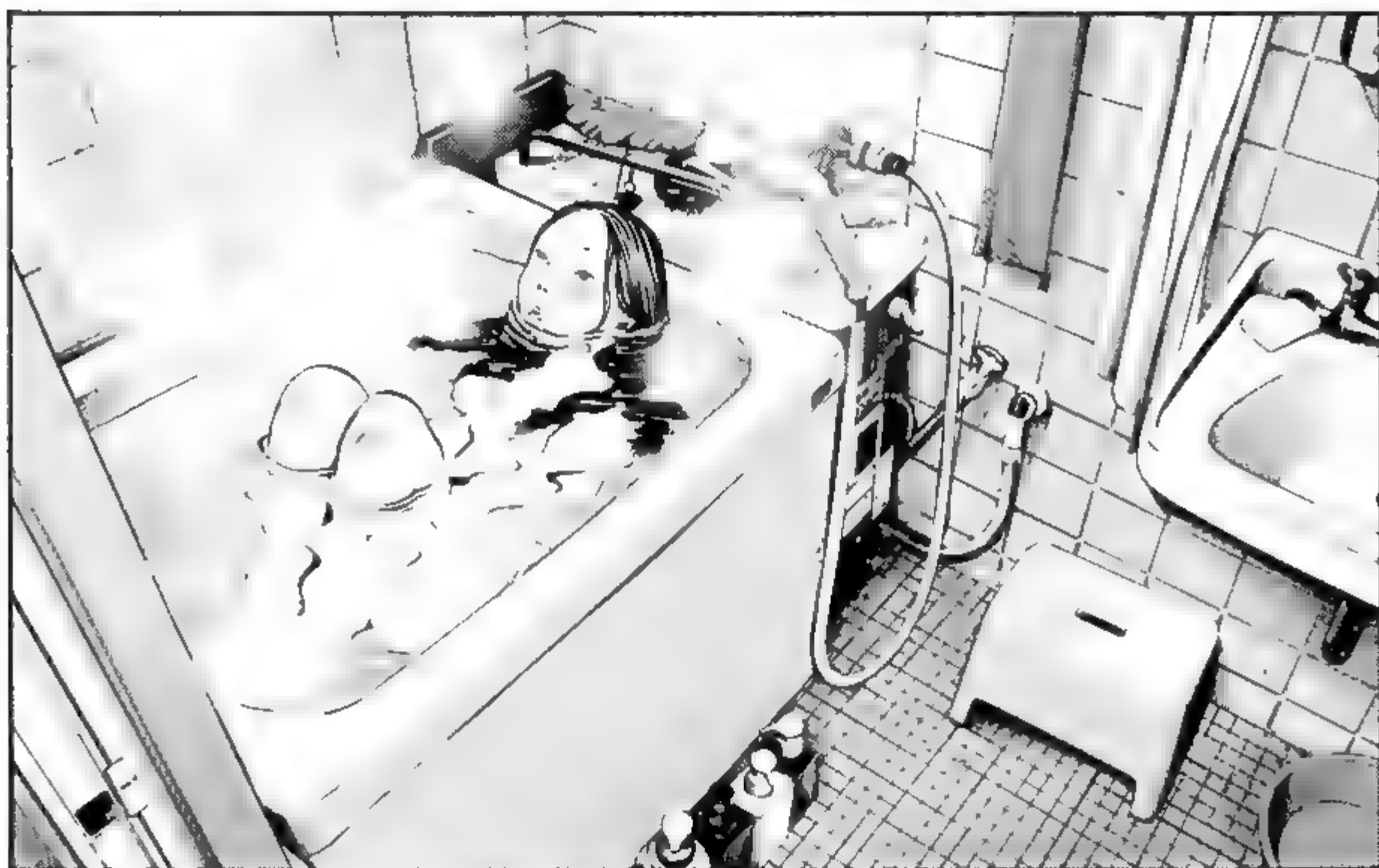
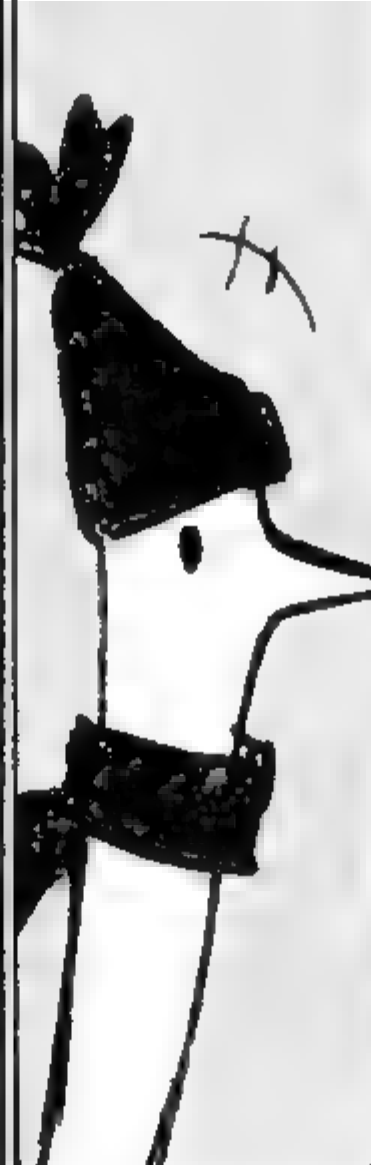


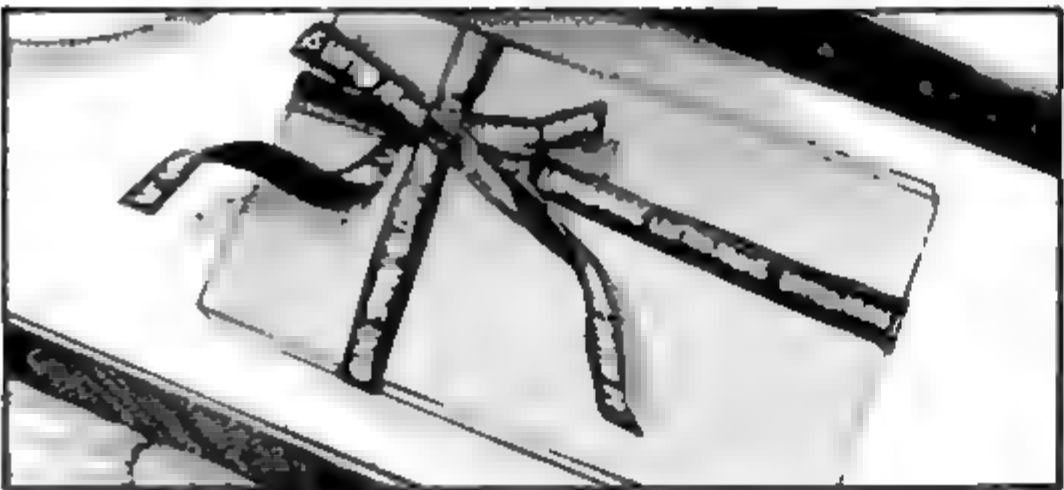


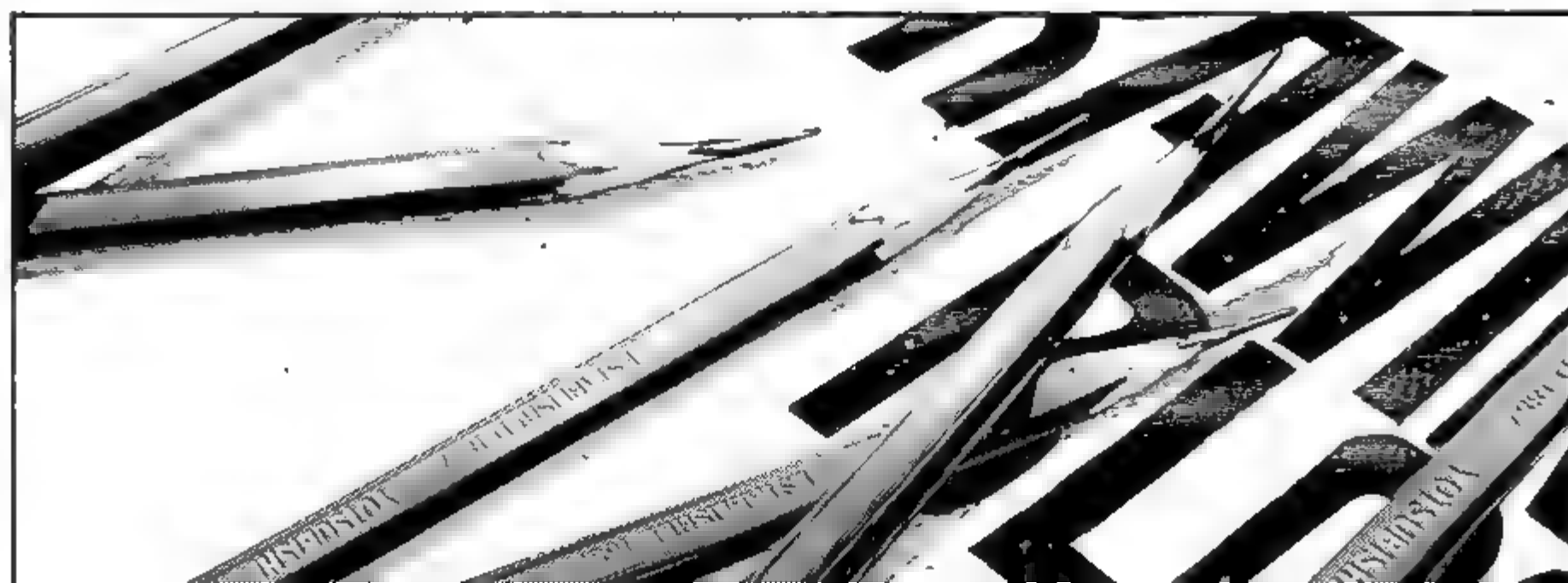
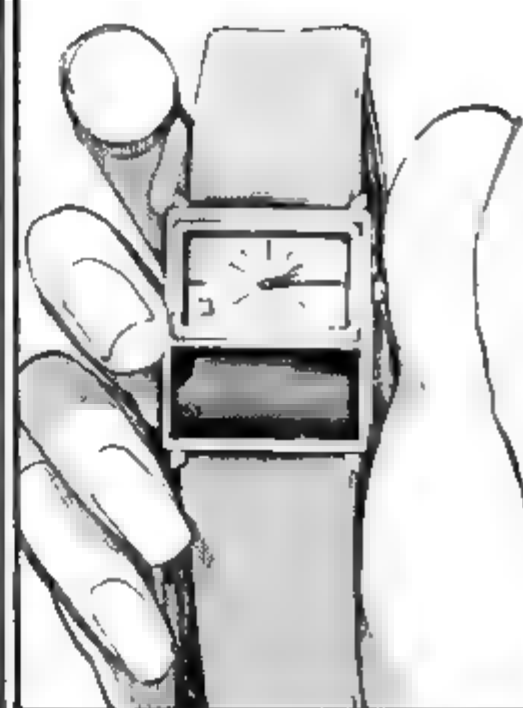


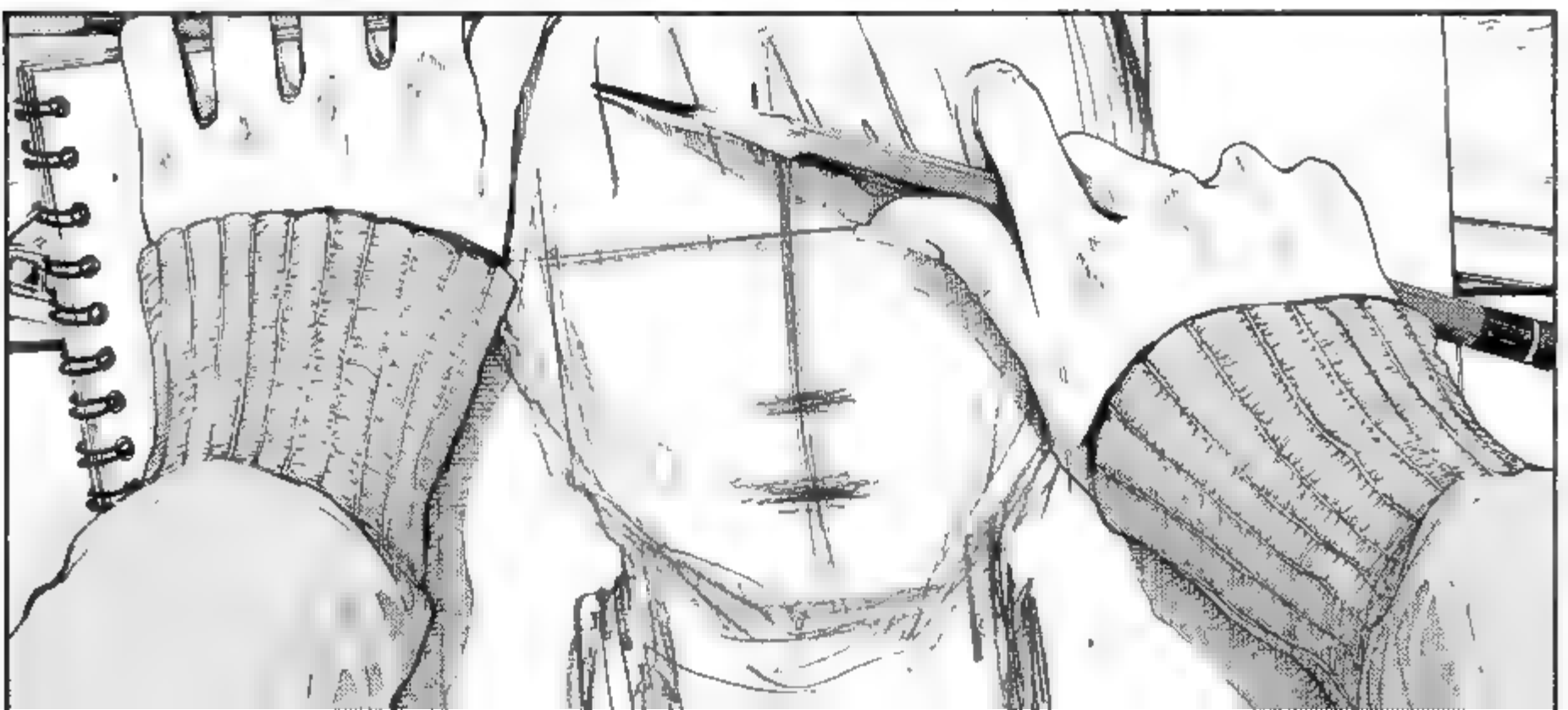
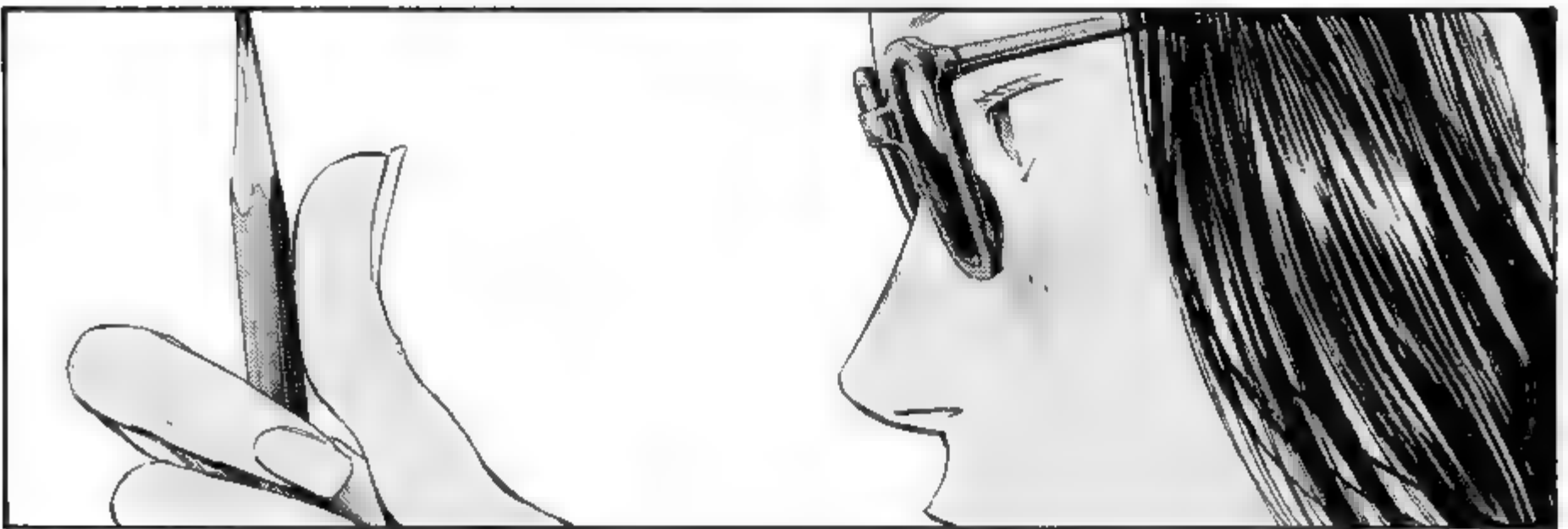














Yo,
Punpun!

Yo!
Yo!



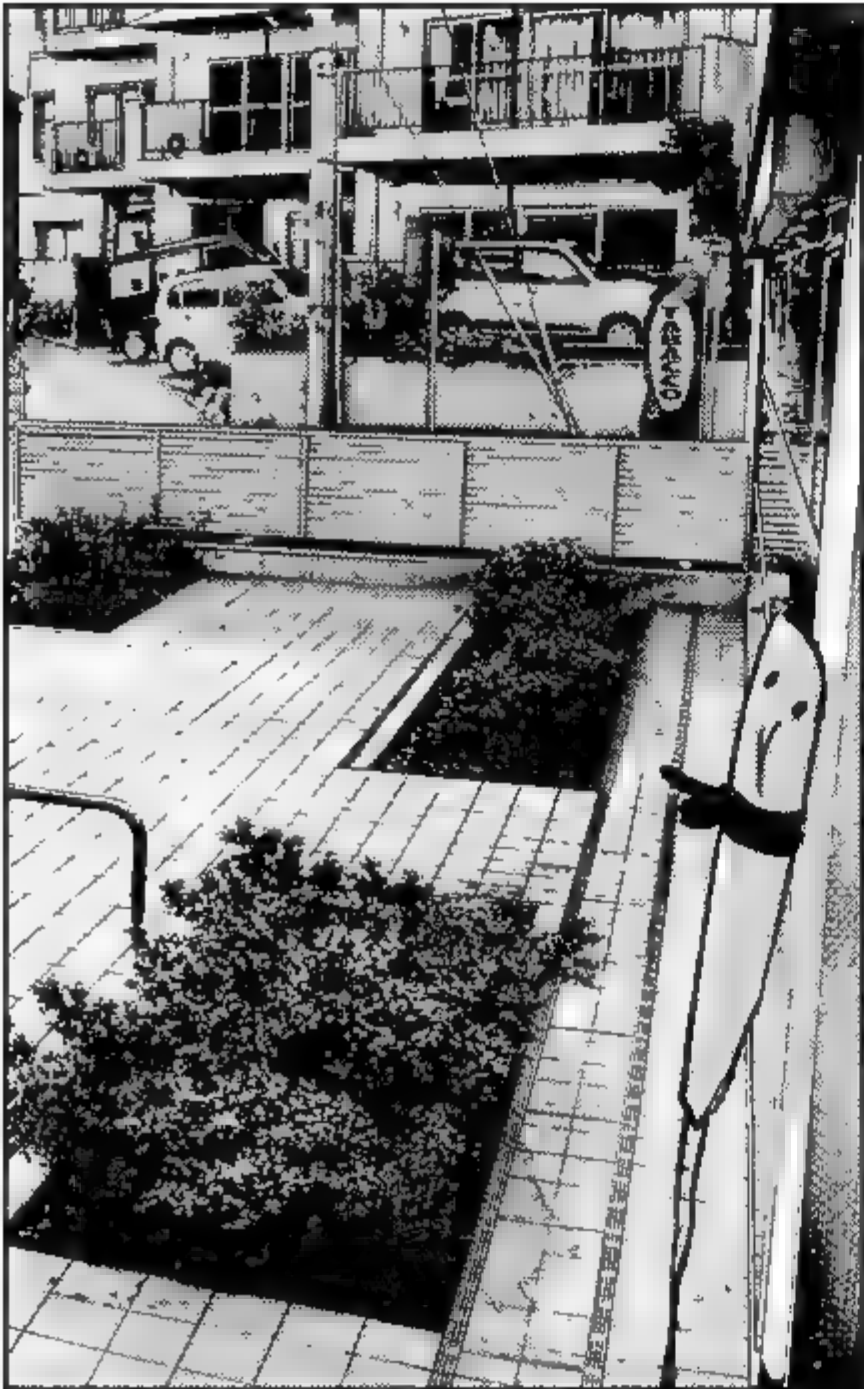
You're
just a
piece
of shit.

What
right do
you have
to feel
happy?

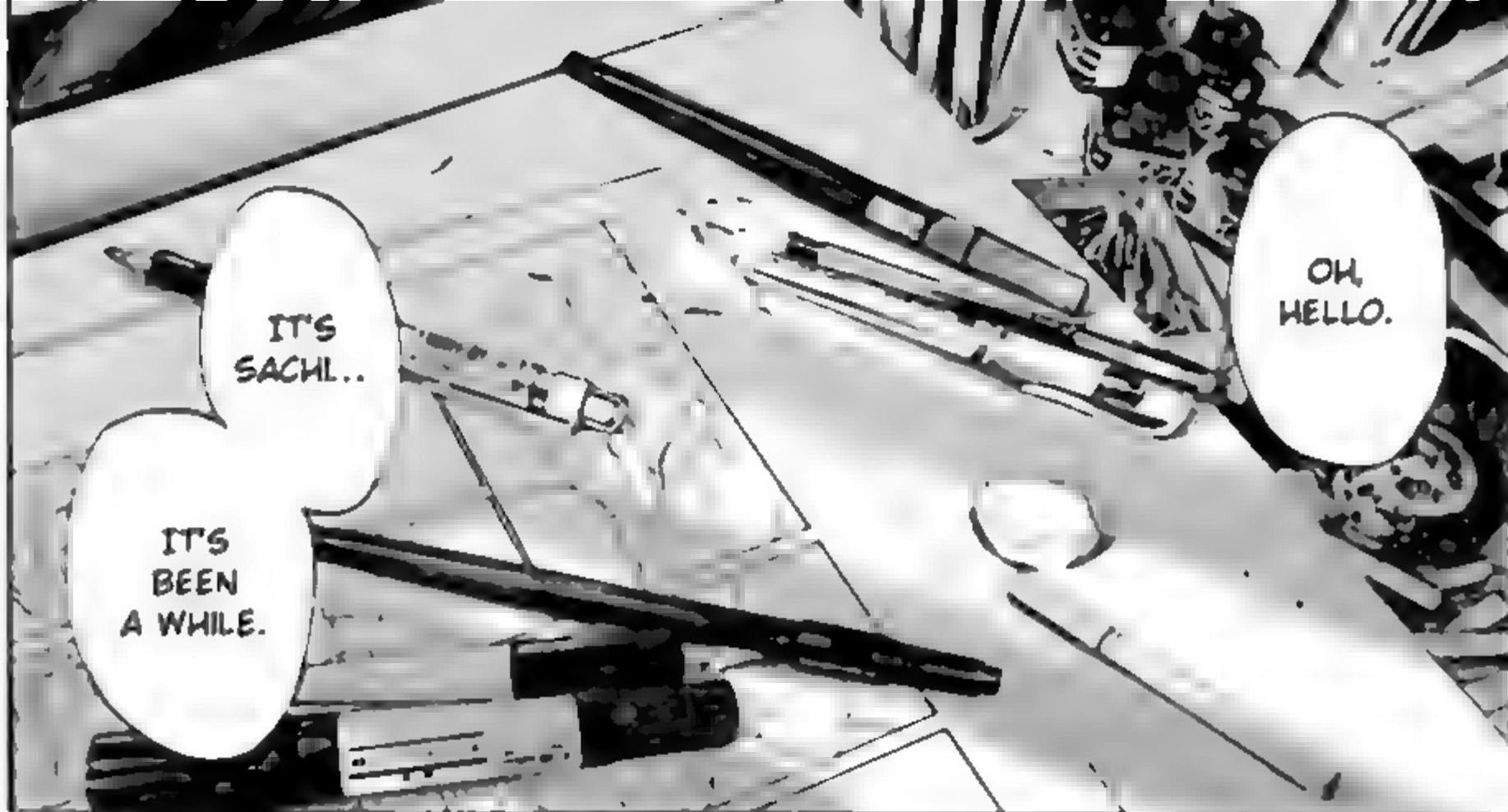


This delusion
isn't going to
last forever.





One
year
later.



IT'S
SACHI...

IT'S
BEEN
A WHILE.

OH,
HELLO.



CAN
YOU TALK
NOW?

I'M
SORRY,
I KNOW
YOU'RE
SUPER BUSY
AT THE END
OF THE
YEAR.



IT'S
BEEN A
LONG TIME,
BUT I'M
TRYING
MY HAND
AT MANGA
AGAIN.

THAT'S
RIGHT, I
HAVEN'T
GIVEN
UP...

I THOUGHT
I'D START
BY COLD-
CALLING
SOME
PUBLISHERS.



...as if to
make up for
the laziness
of the last 11
months.

...December in
the city was full
of hurried
people bustling
through the
crowds...

Once
again...



Punpun
had
changed.

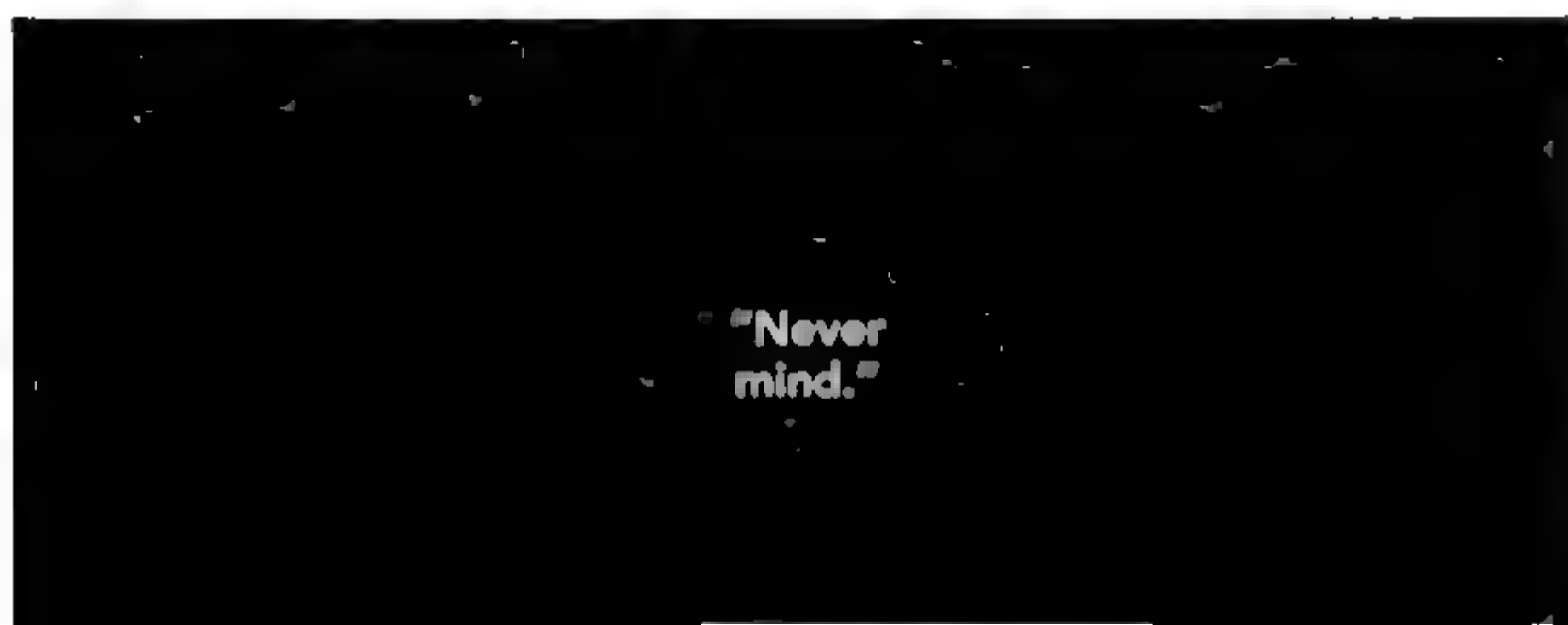
In the 18
months
since he'd
started
living on
his own...

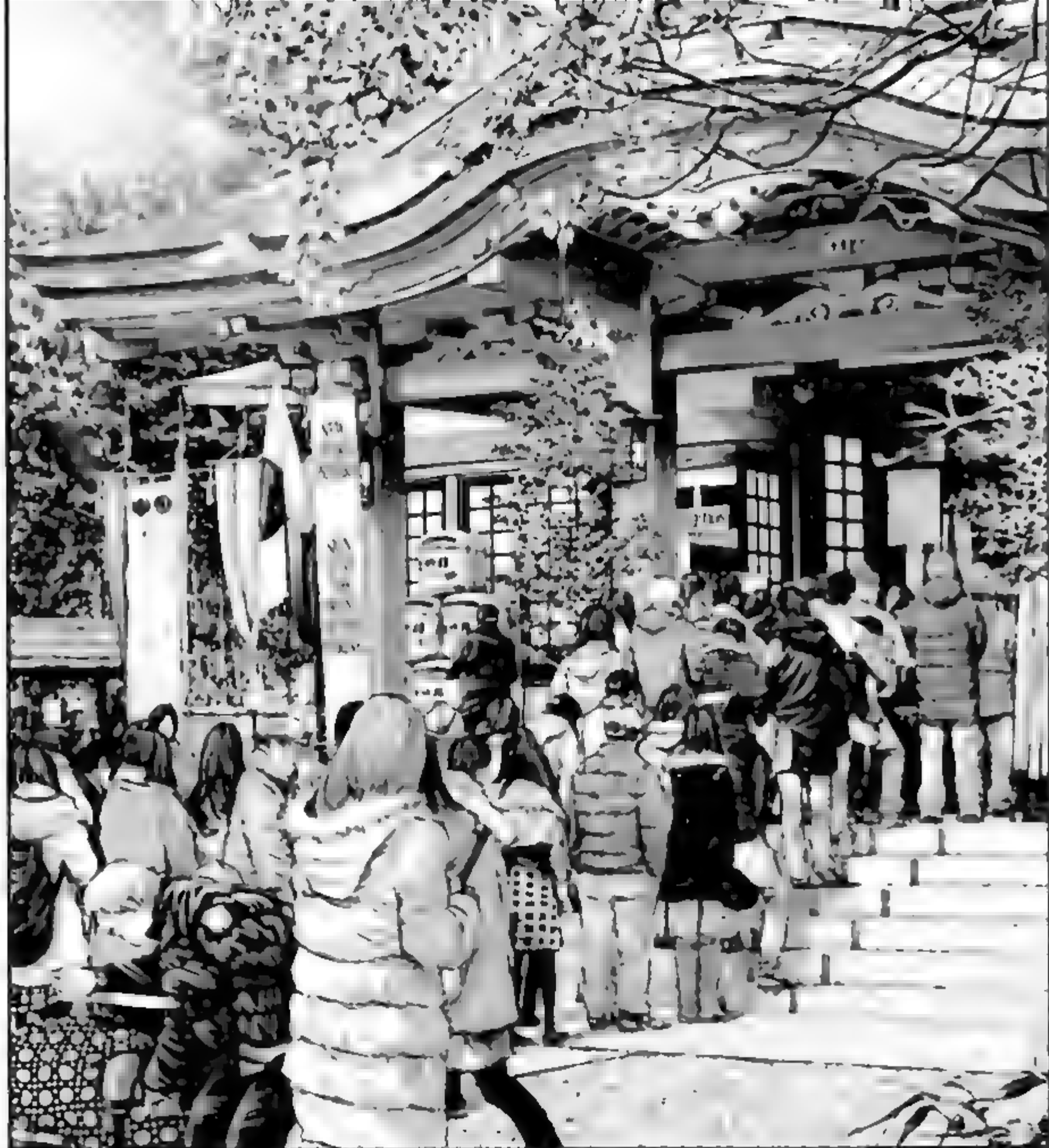


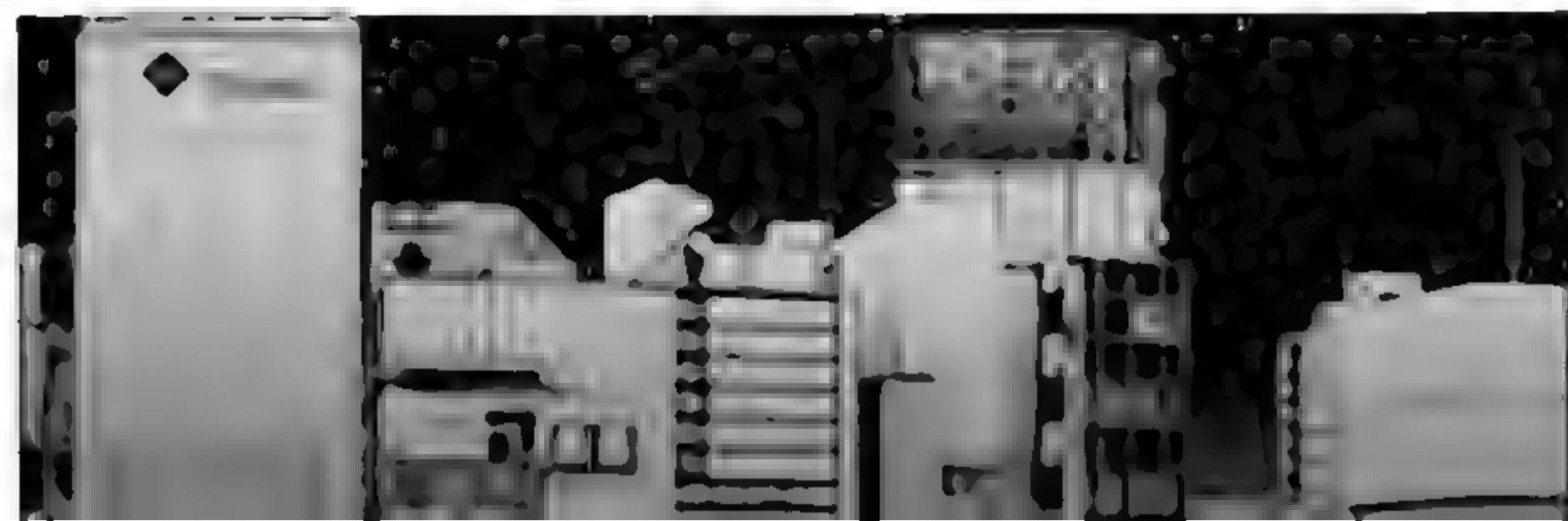
...Punpun
had
mastered
the art of
keeping
step and
blending
with the
crowd.

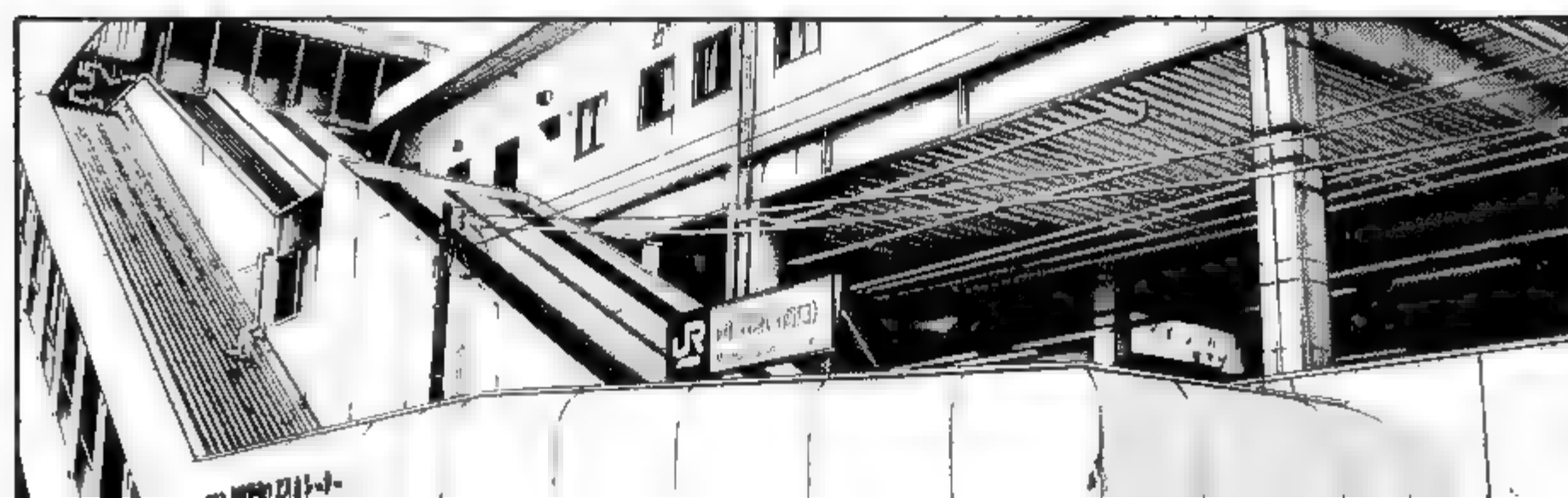
Unlike
years
past...

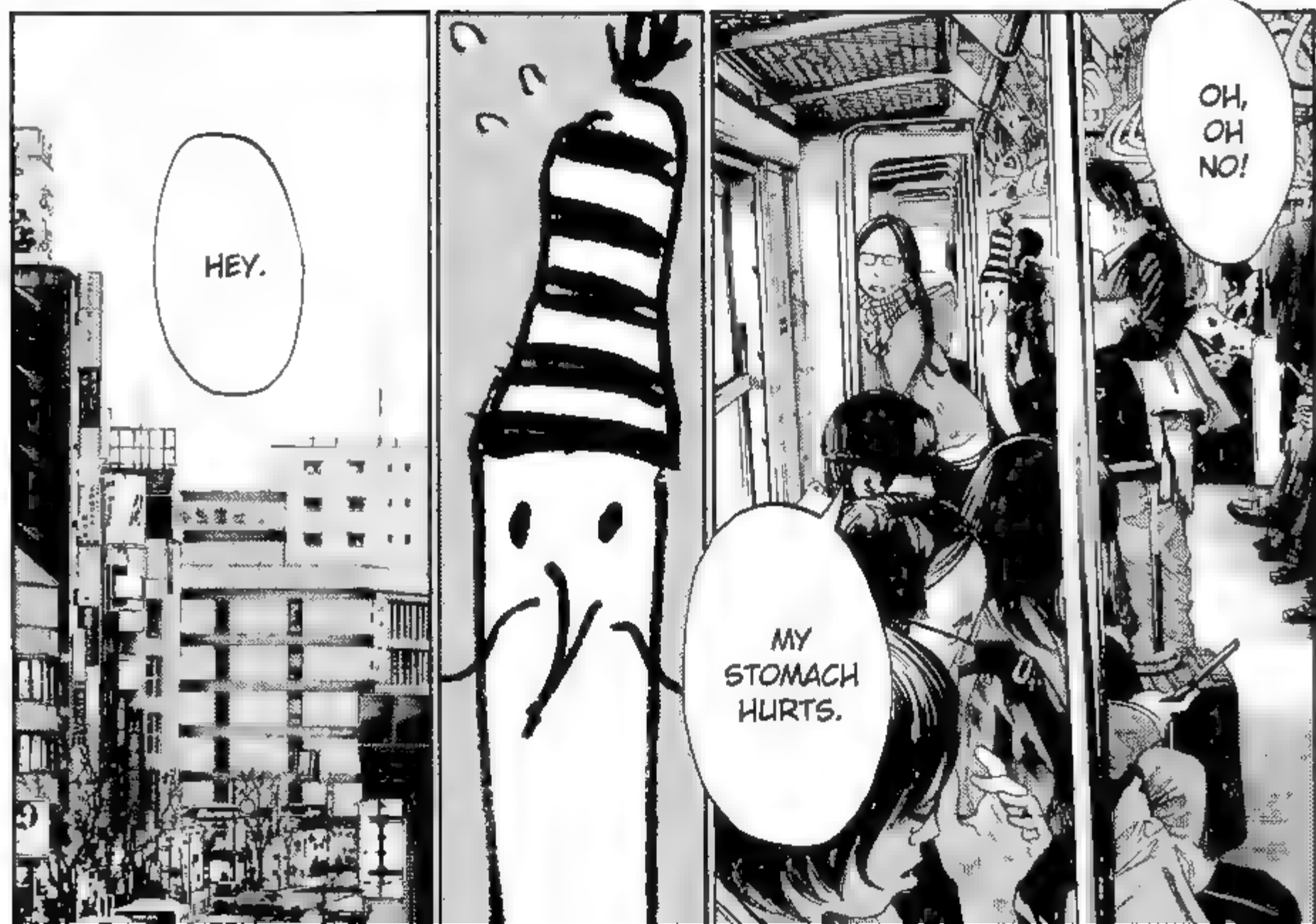








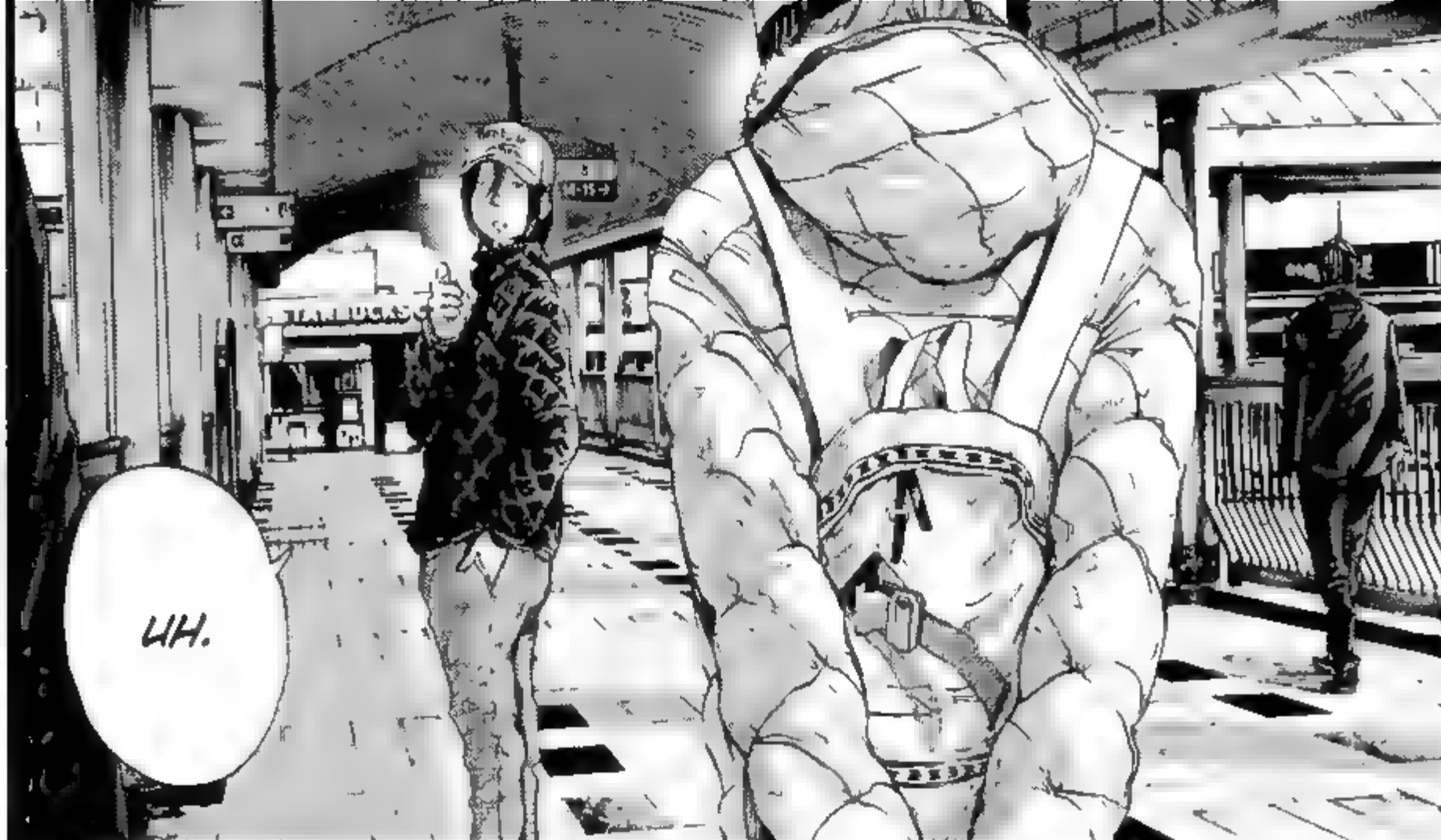












UH.



BEHIND
YOU.

SHIMIZU
...



OKAY,
I DON'T
MIND AT
ALL.

SURE,
GOT IT.

OH,
HELLO...
WE'RE
CHANGING
TRAINS AT
SHINJUKU
RIGHT
NOW.

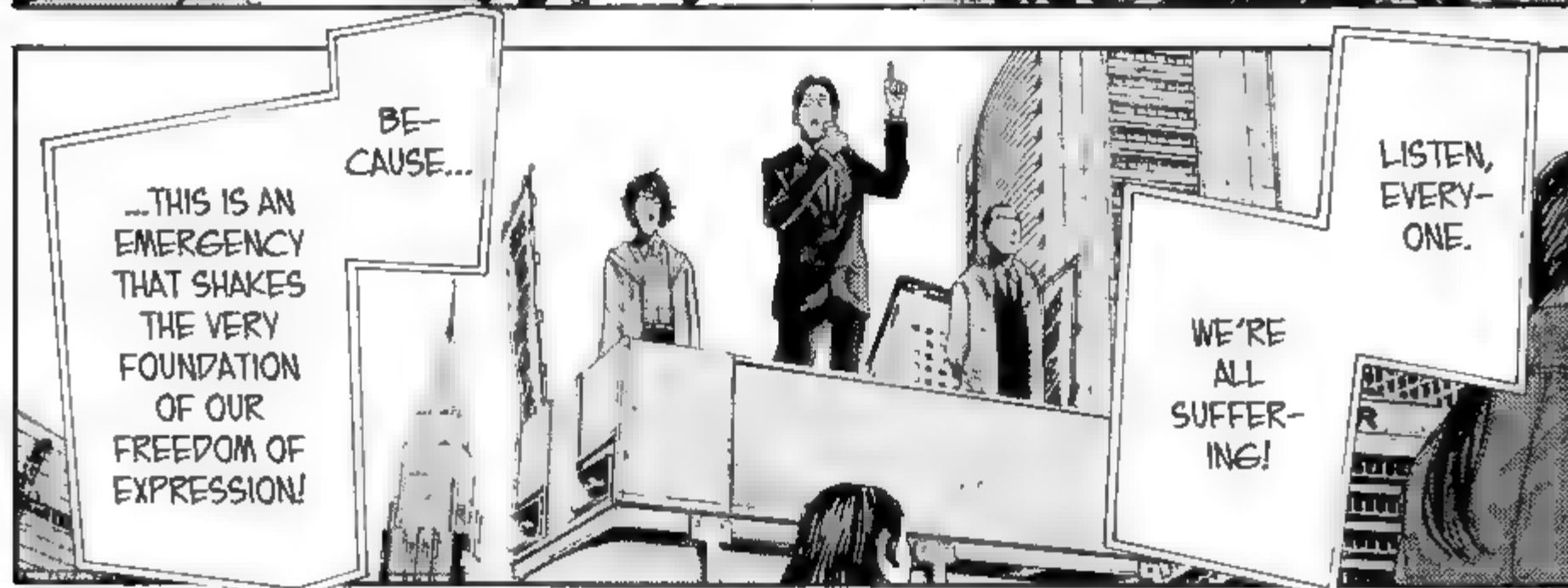


I
GOT ALL
WORKED
UP FOR
NOTHING.

PHEW!

THE
EDITOR...

...SAID
HE'S
PUSHING
OUR
MEETING
BACK AN
HOUR.



BE-
CAUSE...

...THIS IS AN
EMERGENCY
THAT SHAKES
THE VERY
FOUNDATION
OF OUR
FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION!

LISTEN,
EVERY-
ONE.

WE'RE
ALL
SUFFER-
ING!



...IT
TOOK US
18 MONTHS
TO FINISH
THIS.

WELL,
ALL
TOLD...

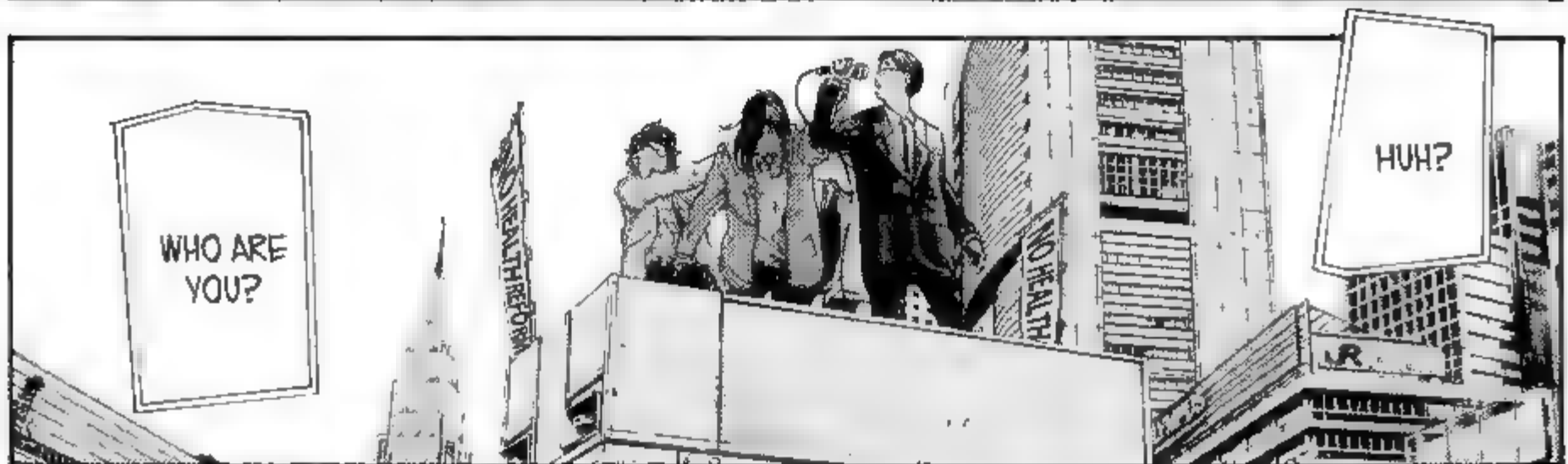


OH, TWO
DIMENSIONS!
TWO-
DIMENSIONAL
PANTIES. I WANT
TO SEE THEM,
DRAW THEM AND
RUB THEM...

I
SWEAR RIGHT
HERE, WE
WILL NEVER
RESONATE
WITH THREE-
DIMENSIONAL
WOMEN.

IN THIS
MISANDRIST,
POLITICALLY
CORRECT
GYNOCRACY,
WE ARE THE
OPPRESSED!

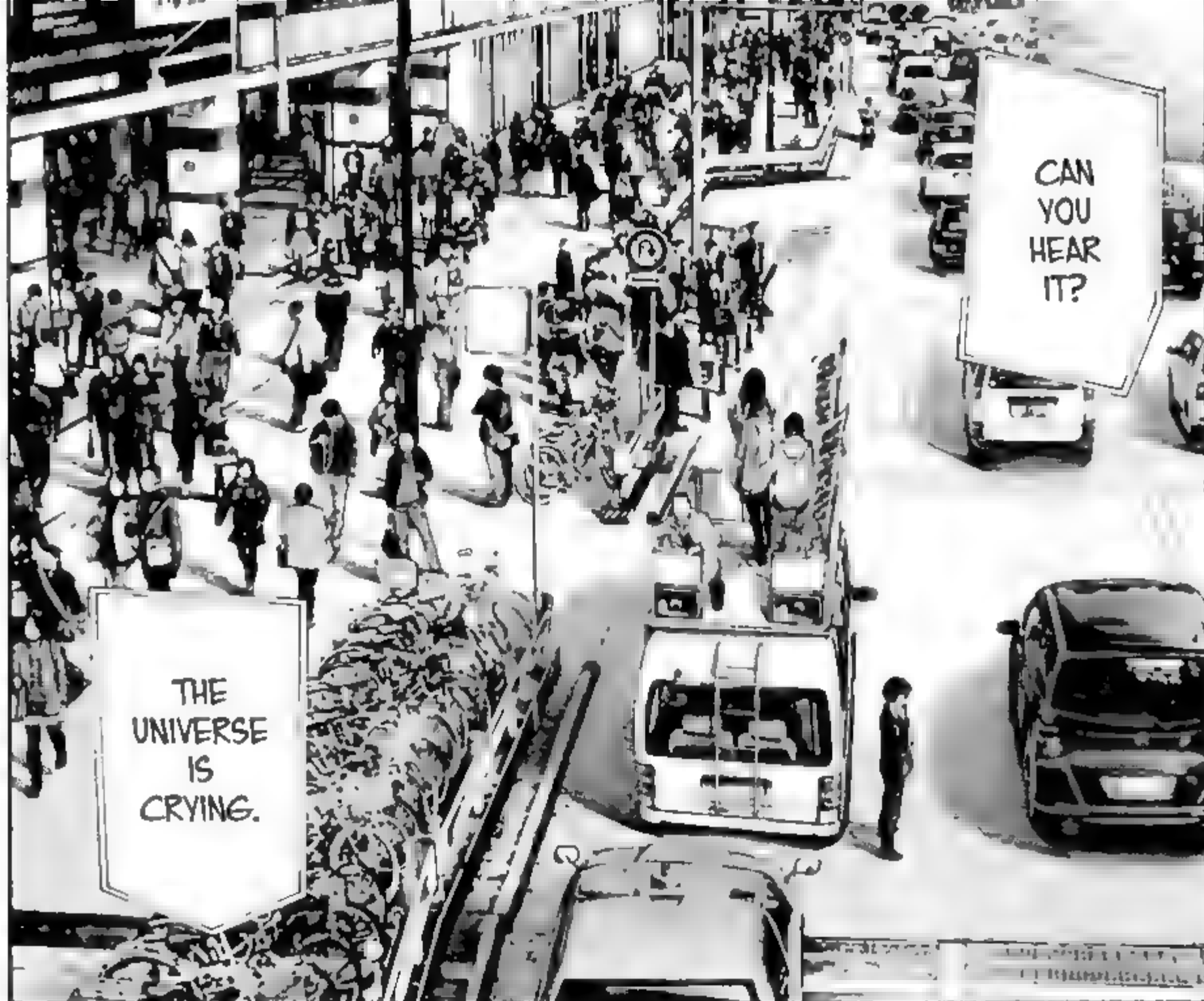
THE ONLY
THING THAT
BRINGS US
JOY IS PLAYING
WITH TWO-
DIMENSIONAL
GIRLS.





GOOD
VIBRATIONS.



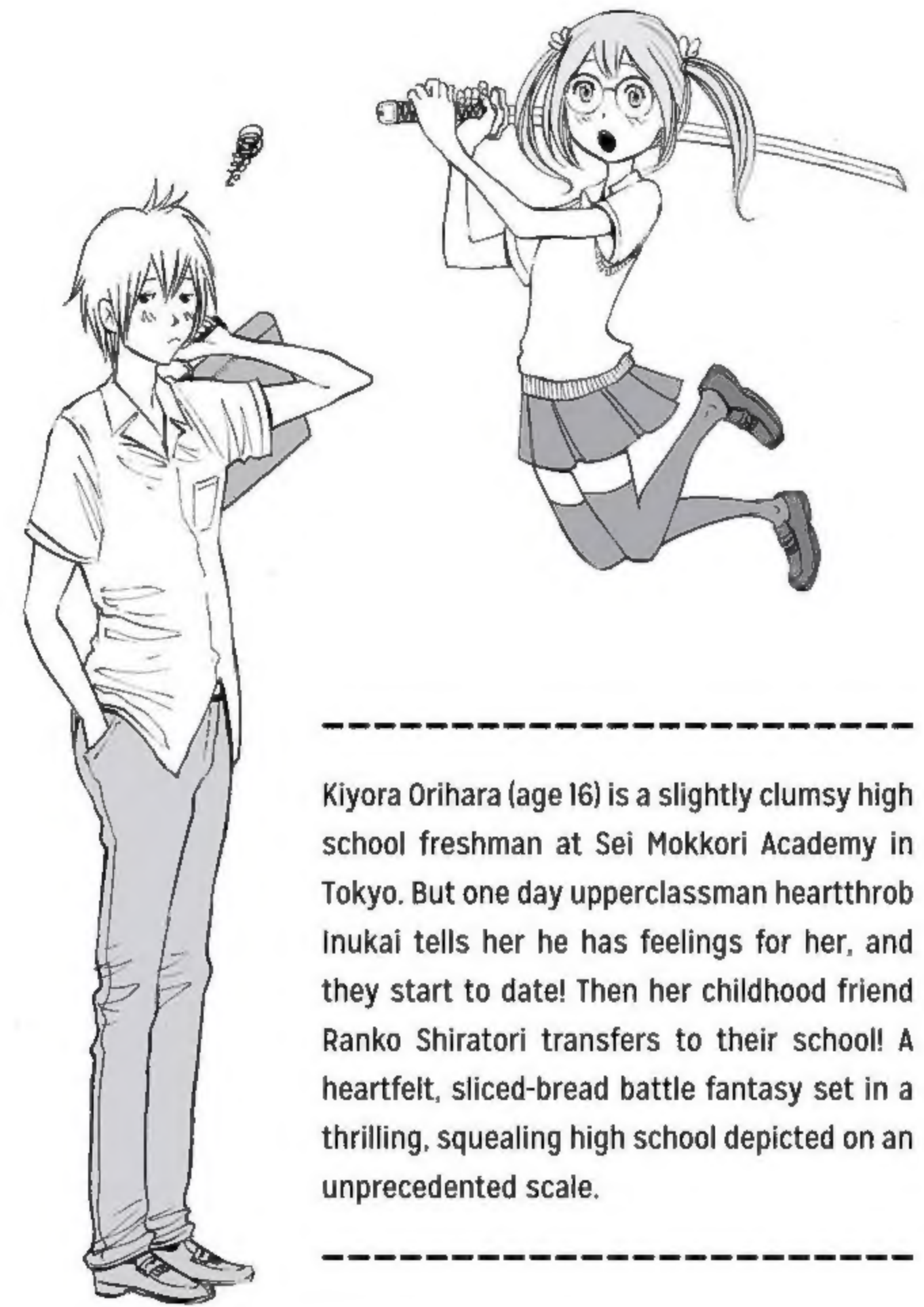






GOODNIGHT PUNPUN INIO ASANO
Part Eight

BACKGROUND ASSISTANTS	Yuki Toribuchi Satsuki Sato
CG ASSISTANT	Hisashi Saito
COOPERATION	Kumatsuto Yu Uehara



Kiyora Orihara (age 16) is a slightly clumsy high school freshman at Sei Mokkori Academy in Tokyo. But one day upperclassman heartthrob Inukai tells her he has feelings for her, and they start to date! Then her childhood friend Ranko Shiratori transfers to their school! A heartfelt, sliced-bread battle fantasy set in a thrilling, squealing high school depicted on an unprecedented scale.

Holy
Grail

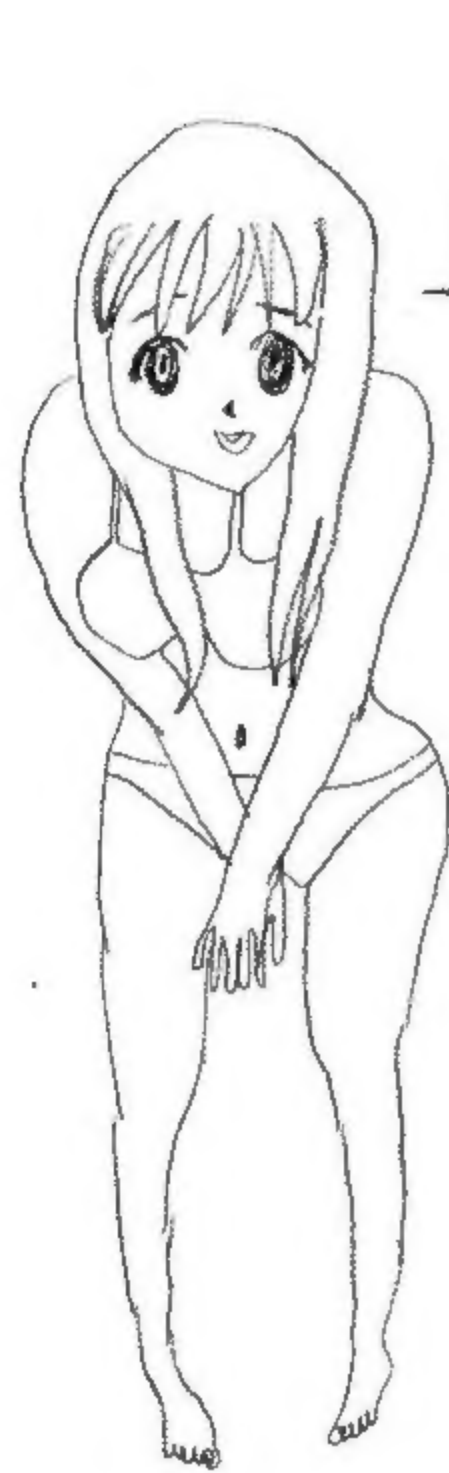


Please
buy
it!



Sir
Gator

It's
nirvana.



sorry
it's
always
boring
!!



The next
volume is
fun
too!!



INIO ASANO, a bona fide earthling, was born in Ibaraki, Japan, in 1980. In 2001, his short story "Uchu kara Konnichiwa" (Hello from Outer Space) won the first Sunday GX Rookie Prize. Later, GX published his series *Subarashi Sekai*, available in English from VIZ Media as *What a Wonderful World!* His other works include *Hikari no Machi* (City of Light), *Nijigahara Holograph* and *Umibe no Onna no Ko* (A Girl on the Shore), as well as *solanin*, also available from VIZ Media.



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Volume 4

VIZ Signature Edition

Story and Art by INIO ASANO

OYASUMI PUNPUN Vol. 7, 8

by Inio ASANO

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Original Japanese edition published by SHOGAKUKAN.

English translation rights in the United States of America,

Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland arranged with

SHOGAKUKAN.

Translation ☆ JN PRODUCTIONS

Touch-Up Art & Lettering ✦ ANNALIESE CHRISTMAN

Design ✦ FAWN LAU

Editor ☆ PANCHA DIAZ

The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

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Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC

P.O. Box 77010

San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First printing, December 2016



www.viz.com

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